SENATE AMENDMENTS

2nd Printing

By: Goldman

H.B. No. 2279

	A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1	AN ACT
2	relating to the regulation of residential service contracts.
3	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
4	SECTION 1. Section 1303.002, Occupations Code, is amended
5	by adding Subdivisions (2-a) and (3-a) and amending Subdivision (5)
6	to read as follows:
7	(2-a) "Executive director" means the executive
8	director of the Texas Real Estate Commission.
9	(3-a) "Reimbursement insurance policy" means a policy
10	of insurance issued to a residential service company to:
11	(A) provide reimbursement to the residential
12	service company under the terms of the insured residential service
13	contracts issued or sold by the residential service company; or
14	(B) pay on behalf of the residential service
15	company, in the event of the residential service company's
16	nonperformance, all covered contractual obligations incurred by
17	the residential service company under the terms of the insured
18	residential service contracts issued or sold by the residential
19	service company.
20	(5) "Residential service contract" means an agreement
21	that is entered into for a separately stated consideration and for a
22	specified term under which [, in exchange for a fee,] a person
23	agrees to, in the event of the operational or structural failure of
24	or damage caused by a defect in materials or workmanship or by

1 normal wear to [undertakes for a specified period to maintain, repair, or replace all or any part of] a structural component, an 2 3 appliance, or an electrical, plumbing, heating, cooling, or air-conditioning system of a residential property that is attached 4 to the residential property: 5 (A) [. The term does not include a 6 7 maintenance agreement sold, offered for sale, or issued by a 8 manufacturer or merchant under which the manufacturer or merchant undertakes to] maintain, repair, or replace all or any part of the 9 10 [a product or part of a product, including a] structural component, [an] appliance, or [an] electrical, plumbing, heating, cooling, or 11 12 air-conditioning system; (B) provide incidental payment of indemnity 13 14 under limited circumstances, including food spoilage; or 15 (C) provide payment instead of repair when a part, structural component, appliance, or service provider or 16 technician is unavailable [of a residential property, that is: 17 18 [(A) manufactured or sold by the manufacturer or 19 merchant; or 20 [(B) installed by the merchant in a building residence]. 21 SECTION 2. Section 1303.053, Occupations Code, is amended 22 by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows: 23 24 (c) Information prepared or compiled by the commission relating to an examination conducted under this section, including 25 26 the examination file, is confidential and exempt from disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code. The commission may withhold 27

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the information without the necessity of requesting a decision from 1 the attorney general under Subchapter G, Chapter 552, Government 2 3 Code. 4 SECTION 3. Section 1303.101(b), Occupations Code, is 5 amended to read as follows: (b) A person may not sell, offer to sell, arrange or solicit 6 7 the sale of, or receive an application for a residential service 8 contract unless: 9 (1) the person is: employed by a residential service company 10 (A) licensed under this chapter; or 11 12 (B) licensed as or employed by a real estate sales agent [salesperson], real estate broker, mobile home dealer, 13 14 or insurance agent in this state; and 15 (2) the contract is issued by a residential service company licensed under this chapter. 16 17 SECTION 4. Section 1303.103, Occupations Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (d) to read as 18 follows: 19 Each application for a license must contain or be 20 (b) accompanied by: 21 a copy of the articles of incorporation, articles 22 (1)of association, partnership agreement, trust agreement, or any 23 24 other basic organizational document of the applicant; (2) a copy of any amendment to the applicant's basic 25 26 organizational document; 27 (3) a copy of any bylaws, rules, or other similar

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H.B. No. 2279 1 document that regulates the conduct of the applicant's internal affairs; 2 the name, address, and official position of each 3 (4) person who will be responsible for the conduct of the applicant's 4 5 affairs, including: (A) each member of the board of directors, board 6 7 of trustees, executive committee, or other governing body or 8 committee of the applicant; 9 the applicant's principal officer, if the (B) 10 applicant is a corporation; and each partner or member of the applicant, if 11 (C) 12 the applicant is a partnership or association; 13 (5) a copy of the residential service contract made or 14 to be made between the applicant and another person; 15 (6) a general description of the residential service contract or the contract's coverage or plan; 16 17 (7) the most recent $[\frac{1}{4}]$ financial statements for the applicant [statement that]: 18 19 (A) that are [is]: 20 (i) prepared by an independent certified 21 public accountant; or 22 (ii) certified as accurate by at least two of the residential service company's principal officers, if the 23 24 residential service company uses a reimbursement insurance policy to insure its outstanding residential service contracts written in 25 26 this state in accordance with Section 1303.151(b) [within six months preceding the date the application is submitted]; and 27

H.B. No. 2279 1 (B) that show [shows] the applicant's assets, 2 liabilities, and sources of financial support; 3 (8) a description of the applicant's proposed method of marketing a residential service contract; 4 (9) 5 a statement regarding the applicant's sources of working capital and any other funding sources; 6 7 if the applicant is not domiciled in this state, a (10)8 power of attorney appointing the executive director [administrator] and the executive director's [administrator's] 9

10 successors in office, or the <u>executive director's</u> [administrator's] 11 authorized deputy, as the applicant's agent for service of process 12 in this state in a legal action arising in this state against the 13 applicant or the applicant's agents; and

14 (11) any other information the commission requires to15 make a determination required by this chapter.

16 (d) Any financial information submitted to the commission 17 in connection with an application is confidential and exempt from 18 disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code. The commission may 19 withhold the financial information without the necessity of 20 requesting a decision from the attorney general under Subchapter G, 21 Chapter 552, Government Code.

22 SECTION 5. Section 1303.151, Occupations Code, is amended 23 to read as follows:

Sec. 1303.151. RESERVE <u>OR REIMBURSEMENT INSURANCE POLICY</u> REQUIRED. <u>(a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), a</u> [A] residential service company shall maintain a funded reserve against its liability to provide repair and replacement services under its

1 outstanding residential service contracts written in this state. 2 (b) Except as provided by Section 1303.152(d), a residential service company is not required to maintain a funded 3 reserve if it insures all of its risk under its outstanding 4 residential service contracts written in this state under a 5 reimbursement insurance policy issued by: 6 7 (1) an admitted insurer; or (2) a surplus lines insurer or a surplus lines bonding 8 company if the insurer or bonding company: 9 10 (A) is rated A+ or better by a rating service recognized by the commission; and 11 12 (B) submits to the commission for its approval evidence, in the form of a certified audit and other pertinent 13 14 information the commission may require, of the insurer's or bonding 15 company's ability to meet its contractual obligations. SECTION 6. Section 1303.152, Occupations Code, is amended 16 17 by amending Subsection (c) and adding Subsection (d) to read as follows: 18 19 (c) For purposes of this chapter, to the extent a residential service company uses a reimbursement insurance policy 20 21 described by Section 1303.151(b) to insure an outstanding residential service contract written in this state, the company's 22 reserve is not required to include a contract fee on $\frac{1}{4}$ 23 24 residential service contract [to the extent that provision is made for reinsurance of the outstanding risk on the contract by: 25 26 [(1) a residential service company licensed in this 27 state:

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1	[(2) an admitted insurer; or
2	[(3) a surplus line insurer or a surplus line bonding
3	company if the insurer or bonding company:
4	[(A) is rated A+ or better by a rating service
5	recognized by the commission; and
6	[(B) submits to the commission for its approval
7	evidence, in the form of a certified audit and other pertinent
8	information the commission may require, of the insurer's or bonding
9	company's ability to meet its contractual obligations].
10	(d) If a residential service company's reimbursement
11	insurance policy is issued by a captive insurance company as
12	defined by Section 964.001, Insurance Code, the residential service
13	company shall maintain a funded reserve of at least 25 percent of
14	the reserve amount described by Subsection (a).
15	SECTION 7. Subchapter D, Chapter 1303, Occupations Code, is
16	amended by adding Section 1303.1525 to read as follows:
17	Sec. 1303.1525. REIMBURSEMENT INSURANCE POLICY. (a) An
18	insurer that issues a reimbursement insurance policy to a
19	residential service company is considered to have received the
20	premiums for the policy on the dates contract holders pay for
21	residential service contracts issued by the residential service
22	company.
23	(b) An insurer may not cancel a reimbursement insurance
24	policy until the insurer mails or delivers a notice of cancellation
25	to the executive director. The cancellation of the policy does not
26	affect the issuer's liability for a residential service contract
27	issued by the insured residential service company before the

1 effective date of the cancellation.

2 SECTION 8. Section 1303.153, Occupations Code, is amended 3 by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (d) to read as 4 follows:

5 (a) <u>Except as provided by Subsection (d), as</u> [As] a 6 guarantee that a residential service company will meet its 7 obligations to its contract holders, the company shall maintain 8 with the commission a bond or other security accepted by the 9 commission.

10 <u>(d) This section does not apply to a residential service</u> 11 <u>company that uses a reimbursement insurance policy to insure its</u> 12 <u>outstanding residential service contracts written in this state in</u> 13 <u>accordance with Section 1303.151(b).</u>

14 SECTION 9. Section 1303.154, Occupations Code, is amended 15 by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (d) to read as 16 follows:

17 (a) Except as provided by Subsection (d), an [An] applicant
18 for a new license must provide security in the amount of \$25,000.
19 The amount of the security may not be reduced before the residential
20 service company files a second report under Section 1303.202.

21 (d) This section does not apply to a residential service 22 company that uses a reimbursement insurance policy to insure its 23 outstanding residential service contracts written in this state in 24 accordance with Section 1303.151(b).

25 SECTION 10. Sections 1303.202(b) and (c), Occupations Code, 26 are amended to read as follows:

27 (b) The report must:

H.B. No. 2279 1 (1) be on a form prescribed by the commission; 2 be verified by at least two of the residential (2) 3 service company's principal officers; and (3) include: 4 5 (A) [a] financial statements [statement] of the residential service company, including its balance sheet and 6 receipts and disbursements for the preceding year, certified as 7 8 accurate by: 9 (i) an independent public accountant; or 10 (ii) at least two of the residential service company's principal officers, if the residential service 11 12 company uses a reimbursement insurance policy to insure its outstanding residential service contracts written in this state in 13 accordance with Section 1303.151(b); 14 15 (B) any material change to the information 16 submitted under Section 1303.103; 17 (C) if the residential service company maintains a reserve required by Section 1303.151(a), 18 the number of 19 residential service contracts entered into during the year, the number of contract holders as of the end of the year, and the number 20 of contracts terminating during the year; and 21 any other information that: 22 (D) 23 relates to the performance and solvency (i) 24 of the residential service company; and 25 (ii) is necessary for the commission to 26 perform its duties under this chapter. Any information [Information] provided by a residential 27 (c)

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service company <u>in connection with the report required by this</u>
section or any midyear report required by the commission [under
Subsection (b)(3)(D)] is confidential and exempt from disclosure
under Chapter 552, Government Code. The commission may withhold
the information without the necessity of requesting a decision from
the attorney general under Subchapter G, Chapter 552, Government
Code [+

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[(1) confidential ; and

[(2) for the exclusive use of the commission].

SECTION 11. Section 1303.251, Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

CONTRACT DELIVERY AND FILING [EVIDENCE OF 12 Sec. 1303.251. COVERAGE]. (a) Each contract holder residing in this state is 13 entitled to receive a copy of the [evidence of coverage under a] 14 15 residential service contract not later than the 15th day after the date the contract holder pays for the residential service contract 16 17 or the effective date of the residential service contract, whichever is later. The residential service company may provide 18 19 [that issued] the copy by mail, e-mail, or other means of delivery acceptable to the commission [contract shall issue 20 evidence of coverage under the contract]. 21

(b) A residential service company <u>shall file with the</u> commission for approval [may not issue or deliver evidence of coverage under] a residential service contract, or an amendment to a previously filed residential service contract that <u>changes the</u> residential service contract's coverage or substantially amends a <u>disclosure required by Section 1303.252</u> [evidence, to a person in

H.B. No. 2279 1 this state until a copy of the evidence or amendment is filed with 2 and approved by the commission].

3 (c) The commission may require a residential service 4 company to submit relevant information the commission considers 5 necessary to determine whether to approve or disapprove <u>a filing</u> 6 <u>made under Subsection (b)</u> [the company's evidence of coverage].

7 (d) The commission shall approve a <u>filing made under</u>
8 <u>Subsection (b)</u> [residential service company's evidence of
9 coverage] if the requirements of this section and Section 1303.252
10 are met.

(d-1) For a filing made under Subsection (b) after a 11 12 residential service company is licensed, the commission shall have 30 days to consider the filing from the date of the filing or the 13 14 date that the commission receives any associated filing fee, 15 whichever is later. On the 31st day after that date, the filing is considered approved unless the commission issues a written order 16 17 disapproving the filing or notifies the residential service company that the filing violates this section or Section 1303.252. 18

19 (d-2) If the commission notifies the residential service company that the filing violates this section or Section 1303.252, 20 the residential service company may submit a response to that 21 notification. On receipt of a response from the residential 22 service company, the commission shall have 30 days to reconsider 23 24 the filing. On the 31st day after the commission receives the residential service company's response, the filing is considered 25 26 approved unless the commission issues a written order disapproving the filing. 27

<u>(d-3)</u> The commission may not require a residential service
 company to waive a 30-day consideration period provided by this
 section or make the approval of a filing contingent on waiving a
 <u>30-day consideration period provided by this section.</u>

5 (e) If the commission disapproves a <u>filing made under</u> 6 <u>Subsection (b)</u> [residential service company's evidence of 7 coverage], the commission shall notify the company of the 8 disapproval and in the notice shall specify in detail the reason for 9 the disapproval.

10 (f) A residential service company whose filing under Subsection (b) [evidence of coverage] is disapproved by the 11 12 commission is entitled to a hearing conducted by the State Office of Administrative Hearings [may request a hearing on the commission's 13 14 decision. If a hearing is requested, the commission shall set 15 hearing on the decision as soon as reasonably possible. Not later than the 60th day after the date of the hearing, the commission 16 17 written order shall approve or disapprove the evidence. evidence is disapproved, the commission shall state in the order 18 19 the grounds for the disapproval].

20 (g) A hearing under Subsection (f) is governed by the 21 contested case procedures under Chapter 2001, Government Code.

22 SECTION 12. Section 1303.252, Occupations Code, is amended 23 to read as follows:

24 Sec. 1303.252. <u>FORM OF CONTRACT AND REQUIRED DISCLOSURES</u> 25 [CONTENTS OF EVIDENCE OF COVERACE]. (a) <u>A residential service</u> 26 <u>contract marketed, sold, offered for sale, issued, made, proposed</u> 27 <u>to be made, or administered in this state must be written, printed,</u>

1 or typed in clear, understandable language that is easy to read and must disclose the following [Evidence of coverage under a 2 residential service contract must contain a clear and complete 3 statement, if the evidence is a contract, or a reasonably complete 4 facsimile, if the evidence is a certificate, of]: 5 (1) the services or benefits to which the contract 6 7 holder is entitled; 8 (2) any limitation on the services, kinds of services, or benefits to be provided, including a deductible or co-payment 9 10 provision; (3) where and in what manner information is available 11 12 on how to obtain services; the period during which the coverage is in effect; 13 (4) 14 (5) the residential service company's agreement to 15 perform services on the contract holder's telephone request to the company, without a requirement that a claim form or application be 16 17 filed before the services are performed; (6) that, 18 the company's agreement under normal 19 circumstances, the company will initiate the performance of services within 48 hours after the contract holder requests the 20 services; and 21 any service fee to be charged for a service call. 22 (7)23 A service fee under Subsection (a)(7) is not required to (b) 24 be preprinted on the residential service contract but must be disclosed in writing to the contract holder before the purchase of 25 26 the residential service contract. (c) A residential service contract insured under 27 а

1 reimbursement insurance policy in accordance with Section 1303.151(b) must contain a statement substantially similar to the 2 following: "The residential service company's obligations under 3 this residential service contract are insured under a reimbursement 4 insurance policy." The residential service contract must also: 5 6 (1) state the name and address of the insurer; and 7 (2) state that the contract holder may apply for 8 reimbursement directly to the insurer if a covered service is not provided to the contract holder by the residential service company 9 10 before the 61st day after the date the contract holder provides proof of loss. 11 (d) A residential service contract [Evidence of coverage] 12 may not contain a provision that encourages misrepresentation or 13 14 that is unjust, unfair, inequitable, misleading, deceptive, or 15 false. SECTION 13. Section 1303.253, Occupations Code, is amended 16 to read as follows: 17 SCHEDULE OF CHARGES. Sec. 1303.253. [(a)] A residential 18 19 service company shall file [may not use in conjunction with a residential service contract] a schedule of charges for services 20 covered under <u>a residential service</u> [the] contract <u>and any</u> [or an] 21 amendment to a previously filed [that] schedule with the commission 22

23 <u>before implementation of the schedule of charges or amendment. A</u> 24 <u>filing made under this section is not subject to prior approval and</u> 25 <u>is made for informational purposes only</u> [until a copy of the 26 <u>schedule or amendment is filed with and approved by the</u> 27 <u>commission</u>].

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1	[(b) The commission shall approve a schedule of charges if
2	the commission determines that the schedule is reasonably related
3	to the amount, term, and conditions of the contract.
4	[(c) If the commission determines that the schedule of
5	charges is not reasonably related to the contract as described by
6	Subsection (b), the commission may reject the schedule. If the
7	commission rejects the schedule, the commission shall notify the
8	company of the rejection and shall specify in detail the reason for
9	the rejection.
10	[(d) A residential service company whose schedule of
11	charges is rejected by the commission may request a hearing on the
12	commission's decision to be held as soon as reasonably possible.
13	Not later than the 60th day after the date of the hearing, the
14	commission by written order shall approve or reject the schedule.
15	If the schedule is rejected, the commission shall state in the order
16	the grounds for the rejection.]
17	SECTION 14. Section 1303.301(a), Occupations Code, is
18	amended to read as follows:
19	(a) A residential service company may not cause or permit
20	the use of:
21	(1) a false or misleading advertisement or
22	solicitation; or
23	(2) any deceptive <u>residential service contract</u>
24	[evidence of coverage].
25	SECTION 15. Section 1303.352(a), Occupations Code, is
26	amended to read as follows:
27	(a) The commission may discipline a residential service
	15

1 company under Section 1303.351 if the continued operation of the 2 company would be hazardous to its contract holders or if the 3 company:

4 (1) operates in conflict with its basic organizational 5 document or in a manner that is contrary to that described in and 6 reasonably inferred from information submitted under Section 7 1303.103, unless an amendment to the information has been filed 8 with and approved by the commission;

9 (2) issues <u>a residential service contract</u> [evidence of 10 coverage] that does not comply with Sections 1303.251 and 1303.252; 11 (3) uses a schedule of charges that <u>has not been filed</u> 12 <u>with the commission in accordance</u> [does not comply] with Section 13 1303.253;

14 (4) is not financially responsible and may be 15 reasonably expected to be unable to meet the company's obligations 16 to contract holders;

17

(5) did not comply with Subchapter D;

18 (6) advertised or marketed the company's services in a
19 false, misrepresentative, misleading, deceptive, or unfair manner;
20 or

(7) otherwise did not substantially comply with thischapter or a rule adopted under this chapter.

23 SECTION 16. The changes in law made by this Act apply only 24 to a residential service contract entered into or renewed on or 25 after the effective date of this Act. A residential service 26 contract entered into or renewed before that date is governed by the 27 law as it existed immediately before the effective date of this Act,

1 and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

2 SECTION 17. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

ADOPTED MAY 2 2 2017 Actary Spars H.B. No. 2279

	By: Goldman/Hancock H.B. No. 2279
	Substitute the following for <u>H</u> .B. No. <u>2279</u> :
	By: Gotternon / Hamwork C.S. <u>H</u> .B. No. 2279
	A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1	AN ACT
2	relating to the regulation of residential service contracts.
3	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
4	SECTION 1. Section 1303.002, Occupations Code, is amended
5	by adding Subdivisions (2-a) and (3-a) and amending Subdivision (5)
6	to read as follows:
7	(2-a) "Executive director" means the executive
8	director of the Texas Real Estate Commission.
9	(3-a) "Reimbursement insurance policy" means a policy
10	of insurance issued to a residential service company to:
11	(A) provide reimbursement to the residential
12	service company under the terms of the insured residential service
13	contracts issued or sold by the residential service company; or
14	(B) pay on behalf of the residential service
15	company, in the event of the residential service company's
16	nonperformance, all covered contractual obligations incurred by
17	the residential service company under the terms of the insured
18	residential service contracts issued or sold by the residential
19	service company.
20	(5) "Residential service contract" means an agreement
21	that is entered into for a separately stated consideration and for a
22	specified term under which [$_{ au}$ in exchange for a fee,] a person
23	agrees to, in the event of the operational or structural failure of
24	or damage caused by a defect in materials or workmanship or by

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normal wear to [undertakes for a specified period to maintain, 1 repair, or replace all or any part of] a structural component, an 2 appliance, or an electrical, plumbing, heating, cooling, or 3 air-conditioning system of a residential property that is attached 4 to or located on the residential property: 5 (A) [. The term does not include a service or 6 7 maintenance agreement sold, offered for sale, or issued by a manufacturer or merchant under which the manufacturer or merchant 8 undertakes to] maintain, repair, or replace all or any part of the 9 [a product or part of a product, including a] structural component, 10 [an] appliance, or [an] electrical, plumbing, heating, cooling, or 11 air-conditioning system; 12 (B) provide incidental payment of indemnity 13 under limited circumstances, including food spoilage; or 1415 (C) provide payment instead of repair when a part, structural component, appliance, or service provider or 16 17 technician is unavailable [of a residential property, that is: [(A) manufactured or sold by the manufacturer or 18 19 merchant; or [(B) installed by the merchant in a building or 20 residence]. 21 1303.052(b), Occupations Code, 22 SECTION 2. Section is amended to read as follows: 23 (b) A residential service company shall pay to 24 the commission a fee for: 25 (1) filing <u>a</u> [an annual] report under 26 Section 27 1303.202; and

(2) any other filing required by this chapter. 1 SECTION 3. Section 1303.053, Occupations Code, is amended 2 by adding Subsection (c) to read as follows: 3 (c) Information prepared or compiled by the commission 4 relating to an examination conducted under this section, including 5 the examination file, is confidential and exempt from disclosure 6 under Chapter 552, Government Code. The commission may withhold 7 the information without the necessity of requesting a decision from 8 the attorney general under Subchapter G, Chapter 552, Government 9 10 Code. 11 SECTION 4. Section 1303.103, Occupations Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (d) to read as 12 follows: 13 (b) Each application for a license must contain or be 14 accompanied by: 15 (1) a copy of the articles of incorporation, articles 16 of association, partnership agreement, trust agreement, or any 17 other basic organizational document of the applicant; 18 (2) a copy of any amendment to the applicant's basic 19 20 organizational document; 21 (3) a copy of any bylaws, rules, or other similar document that regulates the conduct of the applicant's internal 22 affairs; 23 (4) the name, address, and official position of each

(4) the name, address, and official position of each
person who will be responsible for the conduct of the applicant's
affairs, including:

27 (A) each member of the board of directors, board

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of trustees, executive committee, or other governing body or 1 committee of the applicant; 2 (B) the applicant's principal officer, if the 3 4 applicant is a corporation; and (C) each partner or member of the applicant, if 5 the applicant is a partnership or association; 6 (5) a copy of the residential service contract made or 7 to be made between the applicant and another person; 8 (6) a general description of the residential service 9 contract or the contract's coverage or plan; 10 (7) the most recent [a] financial statements for the 11 applicant [statement that]: 12 13 (A) that are [is]: 14 (i) prepared by an independent certified 15 public accountant; or 16 (ii) certified as accurate by at least two 17 of the residential service company's principal officers, if the residential service company uses a reimbursement insurance policy 18 19 to insure its outstanding residential service contracts written in this state in accordance with Section 1303.151(b) [within six 20 21 months preceding the date the application is submitted]; and 22 that show [shows] the applicant's assets, (B) 23 liabilities, and sources of financial support; 24 (8) a description of the applicant's proposed method 25 of marketing a residential service contract; 26 (9) a statement regarding the applicant's sources of working capital and any other funding sources; 27

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(10) if the applicant is not domiciled in this state, a 1 of attorney appointing the executive director 2 power [administrator] and the executive director's [administrator's] 3 successors in office, or the executive director's [administrator's] 4 authorized deputy, as the applicant's agent for service of process 5 in this state in a legal action arising in this state against the 6 applicant or the applicant's agents; and 7

8 (11) any other information the commission requires to 9 make a determination required by this chapter.

(d) The commission shall maintain the confidentiality of 10 information submitted to the commission by an applicant under this 11 section that is claimed to be confidential for competitive 12 purposes. The confidential information is exempt from disclosure 13 under Chapter 552, Government Code. The commission may withhold 14 the information without the necessity of requesting a decision from 15 the attorney general under Subchapter G, Chapter 552, Government 16 17 Code.

18 SECTION 5. Section 1303.151, Occupations Code, is amended 19 to read as follows:

Sec. 1303.151. RESERVE <u>OR REIMBURSEMENT INSURANCE POLICY</u> REQUIRED. <u>(a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), a</u> [A] residential service company shall maintain a funded reserve against its liability to provide repair and replacement services under its outstanding residential service contracts written in this state.

25 (b) Except as provided by Section 1303.152(d), a
26 residential service company is not required to maintain a funded
27 reserve if it insures all of its risk under its outstanding

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reimbursement insurance policy issued by: 2 (1) an admitted insurer; or 3 (2) a surplus lines insurer or a surplus lines bonding 4 company if the insurer or bonding company: 5 (A) is rated A+ or better by a rating service 6 7 recognized by the commission; and (B) submits to the commission for its approval 8 evidence, in the form of a certified audit and other pertinent 9 information the commission may require, of the insurer's or bonding 10 company's ability to meet its contractual obligations. 11 SECTION 6. Section 1303.152, Occupations Code, is amended 12 by amending Subsection (c) and adding Subsection (d) to read as 13 follows: 14 (c) For purposes of this chapter, to the extent a 15 residential service company uses a reimbursement insurance policy 16 described by Section 1303.151(b) to insure an outstanding 17 residential service contract written in this state, the company's 18 reserve is not required to include a contract fee on the $[\frac{1}{4}]$ 19 residential service contract [to the extent that provision is made 20

residential service contracts written in this state under a

20 residential service contract [to the extent that provision is made
21 for reinsurance of the outstanding risk on the contract by:

22

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[(1) a residential service company licensed in this

- 23 state;
- 24 [(2) an admitted insurer; or
- 25 [(3) a surplus line insurer or a surplus line bonding 26 company if the insurer or bonding company:
- 27 [(A) is rated A+ or better by a rating service

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recognized by the commission; and 1 [(B) submits to the commission for its approval 2 evidence, in the form of a certified audit and other pertinent 3 information the commission may require, of the insurer's or bonding 4 company's ability to meet its contractual obligations]. 5 (d) If a residential service company's reimbursement 6 7 insurance policy is issued by a captive insurance company as defined by Section 964.001, Insurance Code, the residential service 8 company shall maintain a funded reserve of at least 25 percent of 9 10 the reserve amount described by Subsection (a). 11 SECTION 7. Subchapter D, Chapter 1303, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Section 1303.1525 to read as follows: 12 Sec. 1303.1525. REIMBURSEMENT INSURANCE POLICY. (a) An 13 insurer that issues a reimbursement insurance policy to a 14 residential service company is considered to have received the 15 premiums for the policy on the dates contract holders pay for 16 residential service contracts issued by the residential service 17 18 company. 19 (b) An insurer may not cancel a reimbursement insurance policy until the insurer mails or delivers a notice of cancellation 20 to the commission. The cancellation of the policy does not affect 21 the issuer's liability for a residential service contract issued by 22 the insured residential service company before the effective date 23 of the cancellation. 24 SECTION 8. Section 1303.153, Occupations Code, is amended 25 by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (d) to read as 26 27 follows:

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1 (a) <u>Except as provided by Subsection (d), as</u> [As] a 2 guarantee that a residential service company will meet its 3 obligations to its contract holders, the company shall maintain 4 with the commission a bond or other security accepted by the 5 commission.

6 <u>(d) This section does not apply to a residential service</u> 7 company that uses a reimbursement insurance policy to insure its 8 <u>outstanding residential service contracts written in this state in</u> 9 <u>accordance with Section 1303.151(b).</u>

10 SECTION 9. Section 1303.154, Occupations Code, is amended 11 by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (d) to read as 12 follows:

(a) Except as provided by Subsection (d), an [An] applicant
for a new license must provide security in the amount of \$25,000.
The amount of the security may not be reduced before the residential
service company files a second report under Section 1303.202.

17 (d) This section does not apply to a residential service 18 company that uses a reimbursement insurance policy to insure its 19 outstanding residential service contracts written in this state in 20 accordance with Section 1303.151(b).

21 SECTION 10. Section 1303.202, Occupations Code, is amended 22 to read as follows:

23 Sec. 1303.202. [ANNUAL] REPORT. (a) <u>The commission may</u> 24 <u>adopt rules requiring</u> [Not later than April 1 of each year,] each 25 residential service company <u>to</u> [shall] file with the commission a 26 report <u>that meets the requirements in Subsection (b)</u> [covering the 27 preceding calendar year].

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(b) The report must: 1 (1) be on a form prescribed by the commission; 2 be verified by at least two of the residential (2) 3 service company's principal officers; and 4 (3) include: 5 [a] financial statements [statement] of the 6 (A) residential service company, including its balance sheet and 7 receipts and disbursements for the preceding year, certified as 8 accurate by: 9 10 (i) an independent public accountant; or (ii) at least two of the residential 11 service company's principal officers, if the residential service 12 company uses a reimbursement insurance policy to insure its 13 outstanding residential service contracts written in this state in 14 accordance with Section 1303.151(b); 15 (B) any material change to the information 16 submitted under Section 1303.103, except an amendment to a 17 residential service contract filed with the commission under 18 Section 1303.251; 19 if the residential service company maintains 20 (C) a reserve required by Section 1303.151(a), the number of 21 22 residential service contracts entered into during the year, the number of contract holders as of the end of the year, and the number 23 of contracts terminating during the year; and 24 25 (D) any other information that: (i) relates to the performance and solvency 26 27 of the residential service company; and

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(ii) is necessary for the commission to 1 perform its duties under this chapter. 2 (c) The commission shall maintain the confidentiality of 3 information [Information] provided to the commission by a 4 residential service company under this section that [Subsection 5 (b)(3)(D)] is claimed to be confidential for competitive purposes. 6 The confidential information is exempt from disclosure under 7 Chapter 552, Government Code. The commission may withhold the 8 information without the necessity of requesting a decision from the 9 attorney general under Subchapter G, Chapter 552, Government Code 10 11 [-12 [(1) confidential; and 13 [(2) for the exclusive use of the commission]. SECTION 11. Section 1303.251, Occupations Code, is amended 14 to read as follows: 15 Sec. 1303.251. CONTRACT DELIVERY AND FILING [EVIDENCE OF 16 17 COVERACE]. (a) Each contract holder residing in this state is entitled to receive a copy of the [evidence of coverage under a] 18 residential service contract not later than the 15th day after the 19 date the contract holder pays for the residential service contract 20 or the effective date of the residential service contract, 21 whichever is later. The residential service company may provide 22 23 [that issued] the copy by mail, e-mail, or other means of delivery acceptable to the commission [contract shall issue evidence of 24 25 coverage under the contract]. (b) A residential service company shall file with the 26

27 commission for approval [may not issue or deliver evidence of

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1 coverage under] a residential service contract, or an amendment to
2 a previously filed residential service contract that changes the
3 residential service contract's coverage or substantially amends a
4 disclosure required by Section 1303.252 [evidence, to a person in
5 this state until a copy of the evidence or amendment is filed with
6 and approved by the commission].

7 (c) The commission may require a residential service 8 company to submit relevant information the commission considers 9 necessary to determine whether to approve or disapprove <u>a filing</u> 10 made under Subsection (b) [the company's evidence of coverage].

(d) The commission shall approve a <u>filing made under</u> <u>Subsection (b)</u> [residential service company's evidence of coverage] if the requirements of this section and Section 1303.252 are met.

(d-1) For a filing made under Subsection (b) after a 15 residential service company is licensed, the commission shall have 16 30 days to consider the filing from the date of the filing or the 17 date that the commission receives any associated filing fee, 18 whichever is later. On the 31st day after that date, the filing is 19 considered approved unless the commission disapproves the filing or 20 notifies the residential service company in writing that the filing 21 violates this section or Section 1303.252. 22

23 (d-2) If the commission notifies the residential service 24 company that the filing violates this section or Section 1303.252, 25 the residential service company may submit a written response to 26 that notification. The commission shall have 30 days to reconsider 27 the filing from the date that the commission receives the

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residential service company's written response. On the 31st day after the commission receives the residential service company's written response, the filing is considered approved unless the commission disapproves the filing. If the residential service company does not respond in writing before the 61st day after being notified by the commission that the filing violates this section or Section 1303.252, the filing is automatically disapproved.

8 (d-3) The commission may not require a residential service 9 company to waive a 30-day consideration period provided by this 10 section or make the approval of a filing contingent on waiving a 11 <u>30-day consideration period provided by this section.</u>

(e) If the commission disapproves a <u>filing made under</u> <u>Subsection (b)</u> [residential service company's evidence of coverage], the commission shall notify the company of the disapproval and in the notice shall specify in detail the reason for the disapproval.

(f) A residential service company whose filing under 17 Subsection (b) [evidence of coverage] is disapproved by the 18 commission is entitled to a hearing conducted by the State Office of 19 20 Administrative Hearings [may request a hearing on the commission's 21 decision. If a hearing is requested, the commission shall set a 22 hearing on the decision as soon as reasonably possible. Not later 23 than the 60th day after the date of the hearing, the commission by 24 written order shall approve or disapprove the evidence. If the 25 evidence is disapproved, the commission shall state in the order 26 the grounds for the disapproval].

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(g) A hearing under Subsection (f) is governed by the

contested case procedures under Chapter 2001, Government Code. 1 SECTION 12. Section 1303.252, Occupations Code, is amended 2 to read as follows: 3 FORM OF CONTRACT AND REQUIRED DISCLOSURES 4 Sec. 1303.252. [CONTENTS OF EVIDENCE OF COVERAGE]. A residential service (a) 5 contract marketed, sold, offered for sale, issued, made, proposed 6 7 to be made, or administered in this state must be written, printed, or typed in clear, understandable language that is easy to read and 8 must disclose the following [Evidence of coverage under a 9 residential service contract must contain a clear and complete 10 statement, if the evidence is a contract, or a reasonably complete 11 facsimile, if the evidence is a certificate, of]: 12

13 (1) the services or benefits to which the contract14 holder is entitled;

(2) any limitation on the services, kinds of services,
or benefits to be provided, including a deductible or co-payment
provision;

18 (3) where and in what manner information is available19 on how to obtain services;

20 (4) the period during which the coverage is in effect;

(5) the residential service company's agreement to perform services on the contract holder's telephone request to the company, without a requirement that a claim form or application be filed before the services are performed;

(6) the company's agreement that, under normal
 circumstances, the company will initiate the performance of
 services within 48 hours after the contract holder requests the

any service fee to be charged for a service call. (7) 2 A service fee under Subsection (a)(7) is not required to (b) 3 be preprinted on the residential service contract but must be 4 disclosed in writing to the contract holder before the purchase of 5 the residential service contract. 6 (c) A residential service contract insured under a 7 reimbursement insurance policy in accordance with Section 8 1303.151(b) must contain a statement substantially similar to the 9 following: "The residential service company's obligations under 10 this residential service contract are insured under a reimbursement 11 insurance policy." The residential service contract must also: 12 (1) state the name and address of the insurer; and 13 14 (2) state that the contract holder may apply for reimbursement directly to the insurer if a covered service is not 15 provided to the contract holder by the residential service company 16 before the 61st day after the date the contract holder provides 17 proof of loss. 18 (d) A residential service contract [Evidence of coverage] 19 may not contain a provision that encourages misrepresentation or 20 21 that is unjust, unfair, inequitable, misleading, deceptive, or false. 22 SECTION 13. Section 1303.253, Occupations Code, is amended 23 to read as follows: 24 Sec. 1303.253. SCHEDULE OF CHARGES. (a) A residential 25 service company shall file with the commission [may not use in 26 conjunction with a residential service contract] a schedule of 27

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services; and

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1 charges for services covered under <u>a residential service</u> [the]
2 contract <u>and any</u> [or <u>an</u>] amendment to <u>a previously filed</u> [that]
3 schedule <u>before implementation of the schedule of charges or</u>
4 <u>amendment</u> [until a copy of the schedule or amendment is filed with
5 <u>and approved by the commission</u>].

6 (b) <u>A filing made under Subsection (a) by a residential</u> 7 <u>service company that uses a reimbursement insurance policy to</u> 8 <u>insure its outstanding residential service contracts written in</u> 9 <u>this state in accordance with Section 1303.151(b) is not subject to</u> 10 <u>approval by the commission and is made for informational purposes</u> 11 <u>only.</u>

12 (c) A filing made under Subsection (a) by a residential 13 service company that maintains a reserve required by Section 14 1303.151(a) may not be implemented until approved by the 15 commission.

16 (d) The commission shall approve a <u>filing made under</u> 17 <u>Subsection (a)</u> [schedule of charges] if the commission determines 18 that the <u>filing</u> [schedule] is reasonably related to the amount, 19 term, and conditions of the contract <u>to which the filing applies</u>.

(e) [(c)] If the commission determines that a filing made 20 under Subsection (a) [the schedule of charges] is not reasonably 21 related to the contract as described by Subsection (d) [(b)], the 22 commission may disapprove [reject] the filing [schedule]. If the 23 commission disapproves [rejects] the filing [schedule], the 24 commission shall notify the company of the disapproval [rejection] 25 and shall specify in detail the reason for the disapproval 26 27 [rejection].

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(f) For a filing made under Subsection (a) by a residential 1 service company described by Subsection (c) after the residential 2 service company is licensed, the commission shall have 30 days to 3 4 consider the filing from the date of the filing or the date that the commission receives any associated filing fee, whichever is later. 5 On the 31st day after that date, the filing is considered approved 6 unless the commission disapproves the filing or notifies the 7 residential service company in writing that the filing is not 8 reasonably related to the amount, term, and conditions of the 9 contract to which the filing applies. 10

(g) If the commission notifies the residential service 11 company that the filing is not reasonably related to the amount, 12 term, and conditions of the contract to which the filing applies, 13 the residential service company may submit a written response to 14 15 that notification. The commission shall have 30 days to reconsider the filing from the date that the commission receives the 16 residential service company's written response. On the 31st day 17 after the commission receives the residential service company's 18 written response, the filing is considered approved unless the 19 commission disapproves the filing. If the residential service 20 company does not respond in writing before the 61st day after being 21 notified by the commission that the filing is not reasonably 22 related to the amount, term, and conditions of the contract to which 23 the filing applies, the filing is automatically disapproved. 24

(h) The commission may not require a residential service
 company to waive a 30-day consideration period provided by this
 section or make the approval of a filing contingent on waiving a

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30-day consideration period provided by this section. 1 (i) [(d)] A residential service company whose <u>filing under</u> 2 Subsection (a) [schedule of charges] is disapproved [rejected] by 3 the commission is entitled to [may request] a hearing conducted by 4 the State Office of Administrative Hearings [on the commission's 5 decision to be held as soon as reasonably possible]. [Not later 6 than the 60th day after the date of the hearing, the commission by 7 written order shall approve or reject the schedule. If the schedule 8 is rejected, the commission shall state in the order the grounds for 9 10 the rejection.] (j) A hearing under Subsection (i) is governed by the 11 contested case procedures under Chapter 2001, Government Code. 12 SECTION 14. Section 1303.301(a), Occupations Code, is 13 amended to read as follows: 14 (a) A residential service company may not cause or permit 15 the use of: 16 (1)or misleading а false advertisement 17 or solicitation; or 18 (2) any deceptive residential service contract 19 20 [evidence of coverage]. SECTION 15. Section 1303.352(a), Occupations Code, is 21 amended to read as follows: 22 (a) The commission may discipline a residential service 23 company under Section 1303.351 if the continued operation of the 24 company would be hazardous to its contract holders or if the 25 26 company: (1) operates in conflict with its basic organizational 27

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1 document or in a manner that is contrary to that described in and 2 reasonably inferred from information submitted under Section 3 1303.103, unless an amendment to the information has been filed 4 with and approved by the commission;

5 (2) issues <u>a residential service contract</u> [evidence of
6 coverage] that does not comply with Sections 1303.251 and 1303.252;
7 (3) uses a schedule of charges that does not comply

8 with Section 1303.253;

9 (4) is not financially responsible and may be 10 reasonably expected to be unable to meet the company's obligations 11 to contract holders;

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(5) did not comply with Subchapter D;

13 (6) advertised or marketed the company's services in a 14 false, misrepresentative, misleading, deceptive, or unfair manner; 15 or

16 (7) otherwise did not substantially comply with this17 chapter or a rule adopted under this chapter.

SECTION 16. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to a residential service contract entered into or renewed on or after the effective date of this Act. A residential service contract entered into or renewed before that date is governed by the law as it existed immediately before the effective date of this Act, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

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SECTION 17. This Act takes effect January 1, 2018.

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FISCAL NOTE, 85TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

May 23, 2017

TO: Honorable Joe Straus, Speaker of the House, House of Representatives

FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB2279 by Goldman (Relating to the regulation of residential service contracts.), As Passed 2nd House

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would amend the Occupations Code relating to the regulation of residential service contracts.

Based on the analysis of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, the State Office of Administrative Hearings, and the Real Estate Commission, duties and responsibilities associated with implementing the provisions of the bill could be accomplished by utilizing existing resources.

Local Government Impact

No fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 329 Real Estate Commission, 360 State Office of Administrative Hearings, 452 Department of Licensing and Regulation **LBB Staff:** UP, SD, CL, EH, JQ, EK

FISCAL NOTE, 85TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

May 18, 2017

TO: Honorable Kelly Hancock, Chair, Senate Committee on Business & Commerce

FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB2279 by Goldman (Relating to the regulation of residential service contracts.), Committee Report 2nd House, Substituted

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would amend the Occupations Code relating to the regulation of residential service contracts.

Based on the analysis of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, the State Office of Administrative Hearings, and the Real Estate Commission, duties and responsibilities associated with implementing the provisions of the bill could be accomplished by utilizing existing resources.

Local Government Impact

No fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies:329 Real Estate Commission, 360 State Office of Administrative
Hearings, 452 Department of Licensing and RegulationLBB Staff: UP, CL, EH, JQ, EK

FISCAL NOTE, 85TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

May 5, 2017

TO: Honorable Kelly Hancock, Chair, Senate Committee on Business & Commerce

FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB2279 by Goldman (Relating to the regulation of residential service contracts.), As Engrossed

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would amend the Occupations Code relating to the regulation of residential service contracts.

Based on the analysis of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, the State Office of Administrative Hearings, and the Real Estate Commission, duties and responsibilities associated with implementing the provisions of the bill could be accomplished by utilizing existing resources.

Local Government Impact

No fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies:329 Real Estate Commission, 360 State Office of Administrative
Hearings, 452 Department of Licensing and RegulationLBB Staff: UP, CL, EH, JQ, EK

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FISCAL NOTE, 85TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

April 18, 2017

TO: Honorable John Kuempel, Chair, House Committee on Licensing & Administrative Procedures

FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB2279 by Goldman (Relating to the regulation of residential service contracts.), Committee Report 1st House, Substituted

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would amend the Occupations Code relating to the regulation of residential service contracts.

Based on the analysis of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, the State Office of Administrative Hearings, and the Real Estate Commission, duties and responsibilities associated with implementing the provisions of the bill could be accomplished by utilizing existing resources.

Local Government Impact

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No fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies:329 Real Estate Commission, 360 State Office of Administrative
Hearings, 452 Department of Licensing and RegulationLBB Staff: UP, CL, EH, JQ, EK

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FISCAL NOTE, 85TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

April 6, 2017

TO: Honorable John Kuempel, Chair, House Committee on Licensing & Administrative Procedures

FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB2279 by Goldman (Relating to the regulation of a residential service contract.), **As Introduced**

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would amend the Occupations Code relating to the regulation of a residential service contract.

The Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation indicates that any costs associated with the bill could be absorbed within the agency's existing resources.

Local Government Impact

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No fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

Source Agencies: 452 Department of Licensing and Regulation **LBB Staff:** UP, CL, EH, JQ