By:  Middleton S.B. No. 1393

(Paul)

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to eligibility for coverage by the Fair Access to Insurance Requirements Plan in certain areas.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1.  Section 2211.151, Insurance Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 2211.151.  MANDATORY COVERAGE PROVIDED TO CERTAIN INSUREDS. (a)  The association shall make residential property insurance available to each applicant in an underserved area whose property is insurable in accordance with reasonable underwriting standards but who, after diligent efforts, is unable to obtain residential property insurance through the voluntary market, as evidenced by two declinations from insurers authorized to engage in the business of, and writing, residential property insurance in this state.

(b)  For residential properties in the area surrounding, but not located more than four miles beyond, the Texas Windstorm Insurance Association catastrophe area designated under Section 2210.005, an offer of coverage for the property through the voluntary market at a cost that exceeds 110 percent of the cost for an association policy providing substantially equivalent coverage of residential property with similar rating characteristics, including size, elevation, age, and construction standards, is considered a declination for purposes of establishing eligibility for coverage under Subsection (a).

SECTION 2.  This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2023.