

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

S.B. 1142
By: Ellis
Economic Development
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As Filed

DIGEST

Currently, insurers' underwriting guidelines are confidential and the Texas Department of Insurance and the Office of Public Insurance Counsel are prohibited from making the guidelines available to the public. Underwriting guidelines may contribute to the unavailability of insurance and redlining by insurance companies. This bill would authorize the Texas Department of Insurance and the Office of Public Insurance Counsel to require disclosure of an insurer's underwriting guidelines and making guidelines available to the public.

PURPOSE

As proposed, S.B. 1142 would authorize the Texas Department of Insurance and the Office of Public Insurance Counsel to require disclosure of an insurer's underwriting guidelines and making guidelines available to the public.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Article 1.24D, Insurance Code, as follows:

Art. 1.24D. New heading: UNDERWRITING GUIDELINES. Authorizes the Texas Department of Insurance (department) or the office of public insurance counsel (office) to require disclosure to the department or office of an insurer's underwriting guidelines. Provides that underwriting guidelines in the possession of the department or office are public information under Chapter 552, Government Code. Deletes provisions regarding the confidentiality of underwriting guidelines. Deletes Subdivision (b)-(d).

SECTION 2. Emergency clause.
Effective date: upon passage.