

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
78R8175 JD-D

S.B. 984
By: Wentworth
State Affairs
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As Filed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Under current law, the Open Meetings Act requires a benefits appeals committee for a public self-funded health plan to deliberate the medical or psychiatric records of an individual applicant in a public meeting. As proposed, S.B. 984 makes an exemption to the open meetings requirement for such deliberations in order to protect confidential medical information of an applicant for coverage under a self-funded health plan.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

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

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 551D, Government Code, by adding Section 551.0785, as follows:

Sec. 551.0785. BENEFITS APPEALS COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC SELF-FUNDED HEALTH PLAN. Provides that this chapter does not require a benefits appeals committee for a public self-funded health plan to conduct an open meeting to deliberate the medical or psychiatric records of an individual applicant for a benefit from the plan.

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2003.