

**GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE—CONVERSION PRIVILEGE—  
SPOUSE OF INSURED**

**CHAPTER 364**

**H. B. No. 155**

*An Act relating to conversion privileges under certain health insurance policies.*

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

Section 1. Article 3.51—6, Insurance Code, as amended, is amended by adding <sup>41</sup> Section 3A to read as follows:

**Conversion privilege**

Sec. 3A. (a) In this section:

(1) "Health insurance policy" means a group policy or contract, including group contracts issued by companies subject to Chapter 20, Insurance Code, as amended, providing insurance for hospital, surgical, or medical expenses incurred as a result of an accident or sickness.

(2) "Insured" means an employee or member of a group that is covered by a health insurance policy.

(b) A health insurance policy delivered or issued for delivery in this state that provides for conversion to an individual policy by an insured on termination of membership in or employment with the group shall provide a conversion privilege to an individual policy to the spouse of the insured on death of the insured or divorce from the insured or on termination of the insured's membership in or employment with the group for any reason including retirement. If the conversion privilege available to the insured provides for coverage of the insured's spouse, the group insurer shall not be required to issue a separate conversion policy to the spouse.

(c) Subsection (b) of this section applies only to a spouse of an insured if the spouse is covered under the health insurance policy at the time of the insured's death or divorce from the insured or termination of the insured's coverage.

Sec. 2.<sup>42</sup> This Act applies to all health insurance policies defined in Section 3A of Article 3.51—6, Insurance Code, and group contracts issued by companies subject to Chapter 20, Insurance Code, as amended, that are delivered or issued for delivery in this state on or after January 1, 1980. Any presently approved policy forms containing any provision in conflict with the requirements of this Act may be brought into compliance with this Act by the use of riders and endorsements which have been approved by the State Board of Insurance.

Sec. 3. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and in imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended, and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

<sup>41</sup> V.A.T.S. Insurance Code, art. 3.51—4, § 42. V.A.T.S. Insurance Code, art. 3.51—3A.  
<sup>42</sup> note.

**Ch. 364            66th LEGISLATURE—REGULAR SESSION**

Passed by the House on March 26, 1979, by a non-record vote; House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 155 on May 17, 1979, by a non-record vote; passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 17, 1979: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 6, 1979.

Effective Aug. 27, 1979, 90 days after date of adjournment.

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**INTERFERENCE WITH EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION—  
CRIMES AND OFFENSES**

**CHAPTER 365**

**H. B. No. 179**

**An Act relating to the offense of interference with emergency communication; providing penalties.**

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

Section 1. Chapter 42, Penal Code, as amended, is amended by adding <sup>43</sup> Section 42.13 to read as follows:

**Sec. 42.13 Interference with Emergency Communication**

(a) A person commits an offense if the person intentionally, knowingly, recklessly, or with criminal negligence interrupts, disrupts, impedes, or otherwise interferes with the transmission of a communication over a citizen's band radio channel, the purpose of which communication is to inform or inquire about an emergency.

(b) In this section, "emergency" means a condition or circumstance in which an individual is or is reasonably believed by the person transmitting the communication to be in imminent danger of serious bodily injury or in which property is or is reasonably believed by the person transmitting the communication to be in imminent danger of damage or destruction.

(c) An offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor unless, as a result of the commission of the offense, serious bodily injury or property loss in excess of \$1,000 occurs, in which event the offense is a felony of the third degree.

Sec. 2. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended, and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Passed by the House on May 24, 1979, by a non-record vote; passed by the Senate on May 27, 1979: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Approved June 6, 1979.

Effective Aug. 27, 1979, 90 days after date of adjournment.

<sup>43</sup> V.T.C.A. Penal Code, § 42.13.