SECTION 2. Section 3502.158, Insurance Code, is repealed.

SECTION 3. 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, 2013.

Passed the Senate on March 13, 2013: Yeas 31, Nays 0; passed the House on May 20, 2013: Yeas 144, Nays 0, one present not voting.

Approved June 14, 2013.

Effective June 14, 2013.

CHAPTER 735
S.B. No. 171

AN ACT
relating to the establishment of a workgroup to study the use by state agencies of a uniform application form following disasters.

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

SECTION 1. Section 418.013, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

(e) The chief of the division shall establish a workgroup of appropriate emergency management council members, local government officials, and nonprofit organizations to determine if a uniform application form for assistance following a disaster may be developed for use by state agencies and by persons requesting assistance from state agencies. The workgroup shall report its findings, including recommendations for any necessary statutory changes, to the legislature before September 1, 2014. This subsection expires September 1, 2014.

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, 2013.

Passed the Senate on May 2, 2013: Yeas 31, Nays 0; passed the House on May 17, 2013: Yeas 132, Nays 2, two present not voting.

Approved June 14, 2013.

Effective June 14, 2013.

CHAPTER 736
S.B. No. 198

AN ACT
relating to restrictive covenants regulating drought-resistant landscaping or water-conserving natural turf.

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

SECTION 1. Section 202.007, Property Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (d) and adding Subsection (d-1) to read as follows:

(a) A property owners' association may not include or enforce a provision in a dedicatory instrument that prohibits or restricts a property owner from:

(1) implementing measures promoting solid-waste composting of vegetation, including grass clippings, leaves, or brush, or leaving grass clippings uncollected on grass;
(2) installing rain barrels or a rainwater harvesting system;

(3) implementing efficient irrigation systems, including underground drip or other drip systems; or

(4) using drought-resistant landscaping or water-conserving natural turf.

(d) This section does not:

(1) restrict a property owners' association from regulating the requirements, including size, type, shielding, and materials, for or the location of a composting device if the restriction does not prohibit the economic installation of the device on the property owner's property where there is reasonably sufficient area to install the device;

(2) require a property owners' association to permit a device described by Subdivision (1) to be installed in or on property:

(A) owned by the property owners' association;

(B) owned in common by the members of the property owners' association;

(C) in an area other than the fenced yard or patio of a property owner;

(3) prohibit a property owners' association from regulating the installation of efficient irrigation systems, including establishing visibility limitations for aesthetic purposes;

(4) prohibit a property owners' association from regulating the installation or use of gravel, rocks, or cacti;

(5) restrict a property owners' association from regulating yard and landscape maintenance if the restrictions or requirements do not restrict or prohibit turf or landscaping design that promotes water conservation;

(6) require a property owners' association to permit a rain barrel or rainwater harvesting system to be installed in or on property if:

(A) the property is:

(i) owned by the property owners' association;

(ii) owned in common by the members of the property owners' association;

(iii) located between the front of the property owner's home and an adjoining or adjacent street; or

(B) the barrel or system:

(i) is of a color other than a color consistent with the color scheme of the property owner's home; or

(ii) displays any language or other content that is not typically displayed by such a barrel or system as it is manufactured;

(7) restrict a property owners' association from regulating the size, type, and shielding of, and the materials used in the construction of, a rain barrel, rainwater harvesting device, or other appurtenance that is located on the side of a house or at any other location that is visible from a street, another lot, or a common area if:

(A) the restriction does not prohibit the economic installation of the device or appurtenance on the property owner's property; and

(B) there is a reasonably sufficient area on the property owner's property in which to install the device or appurtenance; or

(8) prohibit a property owners' association from requiring an owner to submit a detailed description or a plan for the installation of drought-resistant landscaping or water-conserving natural turf for review and approval by the property owners' association to ensure, to the extent practicable, maximum aesthetic compatibility with other landscaping in the subdivision.

(d-i) A property owners' association may not unreasonably deny or withhold approval of a proposed installation of drought-resistant landscaping or water-conserving natural turf under Subsection (d)(8) or unreasonably determine that the proposed installation is aesthetically incompatible with other landscaping in the subdivision.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.
CHAPTER 737

S.B. No. 232

AN ACT
relating to use of the Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System and Registry in connection with the regulatory authority of the consumer credit commissioner.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 14, Finance Code, is amended by adding Section 14.109 to read as follows:

Sec. 14.109. USE OF THE NATIONWIDE MORTGAGE LICENSING SYSTEM AND REGISTRY. (a) In this section, “Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System and Registry” or “nationwide registry” means a licensing system developed and maintained by the Conference of State Bank Supervisors and an affiliated organization to manage mortgage licenses and other financial services licenses or a successor registry.

(b) This section applies only to:

(1) this chapter; and

(2) Chapter 342, 348, 351, 393, or 394.

(c) The commissioner may require that a person submit through the Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System and Registry in the form and manner prescribed by the commissioner and acceptable to the registry any information or document or payment of a fee required to be submitted to the commissioner under:

(1) a chapter to which this section applies; or

(2) rules adopted under the chapter.

(d) The commissioner may use the nationwide registry as a channeling agent for obtaining information required for licensing or registration purposes under a chapter listed in Subsection (b)(2) or rules adopted under the chapter, including:

(1) criminal history record information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the United States Department of Justice, or any other agency or entity at the commissioner's discretion;

(2) information related to any administrative, civil, or criminal findings by a governmental jurisdiction; and

(3) information requested by the commissioner under Section 342.101(a)(4), 348.502(a)(3), 351.101(a)(4), 393.604(a)(5), or 394.204(c)(8).

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

Passed the Senate on March 13, 2013: Yeas 31, Nays 0; passed the House on May 17, 2013: Yeas 129, Nays 5, two present not voting.

Approved June 14, 2013.

Effective September 1, 2013.

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