(5) monitor developments that have a substantial effect on rural Texas communities, especially actions of state government, and compile an annual report describing and evaluating the condition of rural communities;

(6) administer the federal community development block grant nonentitlement program;

(7) administer programs supporting rural health care as provided by this chapter;

(8) perform research to determine the most beneficial and cost-effective ways to improve the welfare of rural communities;

(9) ensure that the office qualifies as the state's office of rural health for the purpose of receiving grants from the Office of Rural Health Policy of the United States Department of Health and Human Services under 42 U.S.C. Section 254r;

(10) manage the state's Medicare rural hospital flexibility program under 42 U.S.C. Section 1395l-4;

(11) seek state and federal money available for economic development in rural areas for programs under this chapter;

(12) in conjunction with other offices and divisions of the Department of Agriculture, regularly cross-train office employees with other employees of the Department of Agriculture regarding the programs administered and services provided to rural communities; and

(13) work with interested persons to assist volunteer fire departments and emergency services districts in rural areas.

SECTION 3. Subsection (b), Section 487.804, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) Not later than January 1 of each even-numbered year, the commissioner shall submit to the legislature a report of the findings of the advisory council and the activities of the Texas Rural Foundation.

SECTION 4. The following provisions are repealed:

(1) Section 15.006, Agriculture Code;

(2) Subsections (e) and (f), Section 102.167, Agriculture Code;

(3) Section 487.056, Government Code; and

(4) Section 487.653, Government Code.

SECTION 5. 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 April 16, 2013: Yeas 29, Nays 0; passed the House on May 17, 2013: Yeas 139, Nays 2, two present not voting.

Approved June 14, 2013.

Effective June 14, 2013.

CHAPTER 447

S.B. No. 801

AN ACT
relating to security deposit requirements for certain insurance companies.

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

SECTION 1. Subsections (b) and (d), Section 861.252, Insurance Code, are amended to read as follows:

(b) If, as a prerequisite to engaging in the business of insurance in another state, country, or province, a general casualty company is required to deposit with the appropriate officer of that state, country, or province, or with the comptroller, securities or cash [in excess of the 1273}
deposit made under Subsection (a), the company may deposit with the comptroller any authorized securities or cash sufficient to meet the requirement. The comptroller shall receive and hold the deposit exclusively for the protection of policyholders of the company.

(d) A general casualty company may change the company’s securities on deposit with the comptroller by withdrawing those securities and substituting an equal amount of other securities consisting only of:

1. United States currency;
2. bonds of any state;
3. bonds or other evidences of indebtedness of the United States the principal and interest of which are guaranteed by the United States;
4. bonds or other interest-bearing evidences of indebtedness of a county or municipality of any state;
5. notes secured by first mortgages:
   A. on otherwise unencumbered real property in this state the title to which is valid; and
   B. the payment of which is insured wholly or partly by the United States; or
6. another form of security acceptable to the commissioner [authorized by subsection (a)].

SECTION 2. Subsection (a), Section 861.252, and Section 982.306, Insurance Code, are 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 21, 2013: Yeas 31, Nays 0; passed the House on May 14, 2013: Yeas 143, Nays 0, two present not voting.
Approved June 14, 2013.
Effective June 14, 2013.

CHAPTER 448

S.B. No. 809
AN ACT
relating to Public Utility Commission of Texas consideration of the rates for certain equalization surcharges and emergency service fees.

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

SECTION 1. Subsections (a), (b), (c), and (d), Section 771.0725, Health and Safety Code, are repealed.

SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only to the rate for the equalization surcharge established under Section 771.0725, Health and Safety Code, as amended by this Act, on or after the effective date of this Act. A rate imposed before that date is governed by the law in effect on the date the rate was imposed, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

Passed the Senate on March 27, 2013: Yeas 30, Nays 0; passed the House on May 22, 2013: Yeas 148, Nays 0, two present not voting.
Approved June 14, 2013.
Effective September 1, 2013.