Sec. 1806.1541. CERTAIN PROMOTIONAL PRACTICES AUTHORIZED. Section 1806.153 does not prohibit an insurer from, in connection with an offer or sale of an insurance policy or contract subject to this subchapter, giving, providing, or allowing or offering to give, provide, or allow an item that is a promotional advertising item, educational item, or traditional courtesy commonly extended to consumers and that is valued at $25 or less.

SECTION 6. Section 4005.053, Insurance Code, is amended by adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

(d) Subsection (c) does not prohibit an agent from, in connection with an offer or sale of an insurance policy or contract, giving, providing, or allowing or offering to give, provide, or allow an item that is a promotional advertising item, educational item, or traditional courtesy commonly extended to consumers and that is valued at $25 or less.

SECTION 7. The change in law made by this Act applies only to conduct that occurs on or after the effective date of this Act. Conduct that occurs before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law applicable to the conduct immediately before the effective date of this Act, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 8. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

Passed the Senate on March 21, 2013: Yeas 31, Nays 0; passed the House on April 25, 2013: Yeas 135, Nays 0, one present not voting.

Effective September 1, 2013.

CHAPTER 29

S.B. No. 846

AN ACT

relating to training, certification, and accreditation provided or regulated by the Texas Veterans Commission.

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

SECTION 1. Subsections (d) and (e), Section 434.038, Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

(d) The commission shall develop standard course materials, training curriculum, and examinations to be used for county service officer certification and United States Department of Veterans Affairs accreditation. [The members of the commission must approve the course materials, training curriculum, and examinations before the commission may distribute the materials and administer examinations.]

(e) The commission shall:

(1) maintain course materials and examinations in a central location and provide county service offices and commission field staff with access to the course materials on the commission's Internet website;

(2) regularly update course materials, training curriculum, and examinations after consulting with:

(A) the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure the course materials, training curriculum, and examinations are accurate and meet applicable United States Department of Veterans Affairs requirements; and

(B) accredited county service officers to ensure the materials, training curriculum, and examinations include issues developing at the county level; [and]

(3) develop a training handbook containing instruction and case studies addressing:

(A) general assistance techniques, including how to provide general information regarding state and federal benefits and referrals for other services and to other agencies, and general information regarding state and federal benefits;
(B) basic counseling approaches for assisting veterans, their family members, and other eligible dependents filing benefit claims;

(C) basic information on United States Department of Veterans Affairs processes and procedures, including how to accurately complete claims and appeals forms and how to support claims;

(D) methods of collecting required documentation and developing claims and appeals;

(E) methods of documenting progress and updating a veteran's, a veteran's family member's, or another eligible dependent's case information;

(F) methods of assisting veterans, their family members, or other eligible dependents in pursuing appeals, including offering case knowledge in appeals hearings; and

(G) methods of representing veterans, their family members, or other eligible dependents during appeals hearings; and

(4) coordinate with the Department of State Health Services to incorporate a suicide prevention component as part of the accreditation training and examination.

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

Passed the Senate on April 11, 2013: Yeas 31, Nays 0; passed the House on April 25, 2013: Yeas 136, Nays 0, two present not voting.

Approved May 10, 2013.

Effective September 1, 2013.

CHAPTER 30

S.B. No. 974

AN ACT

relating to the name of Texas State University—San Marcos.

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

SECTION 1. The heading to Subchapter C, Chapter 96, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER C. TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY—SAN MARCOS

SECTION 2. Section 96.41, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 96.41. TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY—SAN MARCOS. Texas State University—San Marcos is a coeducational institution of higher education with campuses located in the city of San Marcos and in the city of Round Rock. The university [14] is under the management and control of the Board of Regents, Texas State University System.

SECTION 3. Subsection (a), Section 54.511, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The board of regents of the Texas State University System may charge each student enrolled at Texas State University—San Marcos a fee initially set at $10 per semester or $5 per six-week summer term to be used to finance bus service for students attending the institution.

SECTION 4. Subsection (a), Section 54.5381, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The board of regents of the Texas State University System may impose an intercollegiate athletics fee on each student enrolled at a component institution of the Texas State University System, other than Texas State University—San Marcos, in an amount not to exceed:

(1) $8.75 per semester credit hour for each regular semester; and

(2) $4.50 per semester credit hour for each summer session.