

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
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S.B. 944
By: Jackson
Business & Commerce
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As Filed

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

S.B. 944 creates an advisory committee comprised of nine members to advise the commissioner of insurance (commissioner) on certain automobile insurance claims.

The commissioner appoints the members of the advisory committee, including three members who represent vehicle repair facilities, three members who represent the public, and three members who represent the automobile industry.

This bill creates an avenue for communication between the Texas Department of Insurance, the public, repair shops, and insurance companies.

As proposed, S.B. 944 amends current law relating to the creation of an advisory committee to make recommendations to the commissioner of insurance regarding certain automobile insurance claims.

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 Subchapter G, Chapter 1952, Insurance Code, by adding Section 1952.308, as follows:

Sec. 1952.308. ADVISORY COMMITTEE. (a) Requires an advisory committee to make recommendations to the commissioner of insurance (commissioner) regarding the enforcement of this subchapter; preventing and penalizing the processing of third-party claims for damage to a motor vehicle in violation of Chapters 541 (Unfair Methods of Competition and Unfair or Deceptive Acts or Practices) and 542 (Processing and Settlement of Claims); procedures, parts, or products used to repair a motor vehicle; rules and procedures related to automobile insurance claims for the costs of towing and storing motor vehicles; and any other matter relating to automobile insurance and the repair of motor vehicles.

(b) Provides that the advisory committee is composed of nine members appointed by the commissioner. Sets forth the composition of the advisory committee.

(c) Provides that a member of the advisory committee serves without compensation but is entitled to reimbursement for reasonable expenses incurred in attending meetings of the advisory committee.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 2011.