

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center  
77R5902 AJA-D

S.B. 771  
By: Harris  
Business & Commerce  
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### **DIGEST AND PURPOSE**

Currently, employers have a difficult time making an informed decision by comparing plans for health benefits. The Texas Department of Insurance (department) has developed a guide for auto insurance which provides information on each plan which allows a consumer to make a more informed decision on the plan that best meets the consumer's needs. As proposed, S.B. 771 requires the department to prepare a consumers' guide or health coverage so that employers may compare different plans, premium rates, and the coverage and benefits available under each plan.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

Rulemaking authority is expressly granted to the commissioner of insurance in SECTION 1 (Article 26.10) of this bill.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 26A, Insurance Code, by adding Article 26.10, as follows:

Art. 26.10. CONSUMERS' GUIDE TO EMPLOYER HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS. Requires the Texas Department of Insurance (department), in consultation with the office of public insurance counsel, to annually prepare a consumers' guide designed to assist employers in comparing premium rates for, and coverage and benefits provided or offered under, the different types of employer health benefit plans available in this state. Requires the guide to describe the different types of planes available and allow a person to compare the coverage and benefits provided or offered under each type of plan in relation to the premium rates typically charged for each type of plan. Authorizes the guide to contain any information the commissioner of insurance (commissioner) determines will assist employers in assessing employee health benefit plans. Requires the commissioner to adopt rules necessary to implement this article.

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2001.