

**PERSONAL INJURY PROTECTION ARBITRATION**

2012 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Curtis S. Bramble**

House Sponsor: Ryan D. Wilcox

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill creates a new program for personal injury protection arbitration.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ requires the commissioner of insurance to issue a request for proposal for an organization to administer personal injury protection actions through arbitration;
- ▶ sets requirements for the request for proposal; and
- ▶ requires the commissioner to make rules regarding the process.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

ENACTS:

- 78B-10b-101**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
  - 78B-10b-102**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
  - 78B-10b-103**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
  - 78B-10b-104**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
  - 78B-10b-105**, Utah Code Annotated 1953
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28 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

29 Section 1. Section **78B-10b-101** is enacted to read:

30 **CHAPTER 10b. PERSONAL INJURY PROTECTION ARBITRATION ACT**

31 **78B-10b-101. Title.**

32 This chapter is known as the "Personal Injury Protection Arbitration Act."

33 Section 2. Section **78B-10b-102** is enacted to read:

34 **78B-10b-102. Definition.**

35 As used in this chapter, "commissioner" means the commissioner of insurance.

36 Section 3. Section **78B-10b-103** is enacted to read:

37 **78B-10b-103. Personal Injury Protection Arbitration Program.**

38 (1) Any dispute regarding the recovery of medical expense benefits or other benefits  
39 provided under personal injury protection coverage pursuant to Section 31A-22-307 arising out  
40 of the operation, ownership, maintenance, or use of an automobile may be submitted to  
41 arbitration on the initiative of any party to the dispute.

42 (2) This chapter also applies to any arbitration required under Subsection  
43 31A-22-309(6)(a)(ii).

44 (3) Dispute resolution proceedings under this chapter shall include simplified  
45 arbitration procedures that promote efficiency and cost savings through the utilization of  
46 electronic filing and administration.

47 (4) Program costs shall be paid from fees generated from the users of the program.

48 (5) A request for dispute resolution may be made by an injured party, the insured, a  
49 provider who is an assignee of personal injury protection benefits, or the insurer.

50 (6) All decisions of the dispute resolution professional shall:

51 (a) be in writing, in a form prescribed by the commissioner;

52 (b) state the issues in dispute, findings, and conclusions on which the decision is based;

53 and

54 (c) be signed by the dispute resolution professional.

55 (7) The dispute resolution professional may award expenses, interest, and attorney fees  
56 pursuant to Section 31A-22-309.

57 (8) The final determination of the dispute resolution professional shall be binding upon  
58 the parties unless vacated, modified, or corrected by review under Title 78B, Chapter 11, Utah

59 Uniform Arbitration Act.

60 Section 4. Section **78B-10b-104** is enacted to read:

61 **78B-10b-104. Arbitration administrator -- Dispute resolution plan.**

62 (1) The commissioner shall select, in accordance with Section 78B-10b-105, an  
63 organization for the purpose of administering arbitration provided for by this chapter.

64 (2) The organization shall establish a dispute resolution plan, which shall include:

65 (a) procedures and arbitration rules governing the dispute resolution process; and

66 (b) provisions for monitoring the dispute resolution process to ensure adherence to the  
67 standards of performance established by the commissioner.

68 (3) The plan, and any amendments, shall be subject to approval by the commissioner.

69 (4) The organization shall utilize qualified dispute resolution professionals who meet  
70 standards of competency and performance to ensure the independence and fairness of the  
71 review process, including:

72 (a) standards relative to the professional qualifications of the professionals presiding  
73 over the dispute resolution process; and

74 (b) standards to ensure that no conflict of interest exists that would prevent the  
75 performance of the professional's duties in an impartial manner.

76 (5) Compensation for the dispute resolution professionals shall be approved by the  
77 commissioner.

78 Section 5. Section **78B-10b-105** is enacted to read:

79 **78B-10b-105. Request for proposal.**

80 (1) No later than November 1, 2012, the commissioner shall issue a request for  
81 proposal for an organization to oversee and administer the personal injury protection arbitration  
82 program.

83 (2) The request for proposal shall include requirements regarding:

84 (a) organizational structure;

85 (b) operations;

86 (c) arbitration rules; and

87 (d) arbitrators to handle disputes involving automobile insurance personal injury  
88 protection benefit claims.

89 (3) The commissioner shall make rules in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah

90 Administrative Rulemaking Act, that contain the specific qualifications necessary for bidders  
91 and information about how the administrator shall conduct its operations as well as the conduct  
92 of the dispute resolution proceedings as set forth in this chapter.

93 (4) The organization selected shall have experience administering dispute resolution  
94 programs of similar scope and size.

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**Legislative Review Note**  
as of 2-2-12 8:44 AM

**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**