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291 (4) The department shall adopt by rule a property insurance  
292 mediation program to be administered by the department or its  
293 designee. The department may also adopt special rules which are  
294 applicable in cases of an emergency within the state. The rules  
295 shall be modeled after practices and procedures set forth in  
296 mediation rules of procedure adopted by the Supreme Court. The  
297 rules shall provide for:

298 (b) Qualifications, denial of application, suspension,  
299 revocation, and other penalties for ~~of~~ mediators as provided in  
300 s. 627.745 and ~~in~~ the Florida Rules for ~~of~~ Certified and Court-  
301 Appointed Court Appointed Mediators, ~~and for such other~~  
302 ~~individuals as are qualified by education, training, or~~  
303 ~~experience as the department determines to be appropriate.~~

304 Section 7. Section 627.70151, Florida Statutes, is created  
305 to read:

306 627.70151 Appraisal; conflicts of interest.—An insurer that  
307 offers residential coverage as defined in s. 627.4025, or a  
308 policyholder that uses an appraisal clause in a property  
309 insurance contract to establish a process for using an impartial  
310 umpire to estimate or evaluate the amount of loss, may challenge  
311 an umpire's impartiality and disqualify the proposed umpire only  
312 if:

313 (1) A familial relationship within the third degree exists  
314 between the umpire and a party or a representative of a party;

315 (2) The umpire has previously represented a party or a  
316 representative of a party in a professional capacity in the same  
317 or a substantially related matter;

318 (3) The umpire has represented another person in a  
319 professional capacity on the same or a substantially related

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320 matter that includes the claim or the same property, and the  
321 other person's interests are materially adverse to the interests  
322 of a party; or

323 (4) The umpire has worked as an employer or employee of a  
324 party within the preceding 5 years.

325 Section 8. Paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of section  
326 627.706, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

327 627.706 Sinkhole insurance; catastrophic ground cover  
328 collapse; definitions.—

329 (2) As used in ss. 627.706–627.7074, and as used in  
330 connection with any policy providing coverage for a catastrophic  
331 ground cover collapse or for sinkhole losses, the term:

332 (c) "Neutral evaluator" means a professional engineer or a  
333 professional geologist who has completed a course of study in  
334 alternative dispute resolution designed or approved by the  
335 department for use in the neutral evaluation process, ~~and~~ and who is  
336 determined by the department to be fair and impartial, and who  
337 is not otherwise ineligible for certification under s. 627.7074.

338 Section 9. Subsections (7) and (18) of section 627.7074,  
339 Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

340 627.7074 Alternative procedure for resolution of disputed  
341 sinkhole insurance claims.—

342 (7) Upon receipt of a request for neutral evaluation, the  
343 department shall provide the parties a list of certified neutral  
344 evaluators. The department shall allow the parties to submit  
345 requests to disqualify evaluators on the list for cause.

346 (a) The department shall disqualify neutral evaluators for  
347 cause based only on any of the following grounds:

348 1. A familial relationship within the third degree exists