

Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Research Agenda

Workers' Compensation Research and Evaluation Group

Introduction

Texas Labor Code §405.0026 requires the Workers' Compensation Research and Evaluation Group (REG) to prepare a research agenda each year for the commissioner to review, approve, and publish in the *Texas Register*.

Texas Labor Code §405.0025 requires the REG to conduct professional studies and research related to how effectively the workers' compensation system operates.

Texas Insurance Code §1305.502 requires the REG to develop and issue an informational report card each even-numbered year that objectively identifies and compares certified health care networks with each other and with claims outside of those networks.

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The REG proposes the following research projects:

1. An update of the study to estimate employer participation in the Texas workers' compensation system.
2. An update of injured employee access to medical care provided under the workers' compensation system, including an analysis of access to medical care through TDI-certified workers' compensation health care networks.

The REG will consider expanding the scope of the research projects or conducting more projects to accommodate stakeholder suggestions, subject to the resources and data available.

Request for Comments or Public Hearing

You may submit comments on the Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Research Agenda or request a public hearing in writing no later than 5:00 p.m., Central time, on September 28, 2026. A hearing request must be on a separate page from any written comments.

Email your comments or hearing request to RuleComments@tdi.texas.gov or mail them to DWC Legal and Communications Services, MC-LS, Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation, PO Box 12050, Austin, Texas 78711-2050.

Copies of the proposed research agenda are on the [TDI website](#). Please email any questions about this agenda to Botao Shi at wcresearch@tdi.texas.gov.