

**Rider Comparison Packet**

**Conference Committee on House Bill 1**

**2024-25 General Appropriations Bill**

**Article VIII – Regulatory**

## DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

Differences Only - Excludes Capital

### House

**14. Appropriation: Agent and Adjuster Licensing Fee Collections.** In addition to amounts appropriated above, out of funds collected from agent and adjuster licensing fees (revenue object code 3210) deposited to General Revenue-Dedicated Texas Department of Insurance Operating Fund 36, the Department of Insurance is appropriated all amounts collected in excess of those contained in the Comptroller's January 2023 Biennial Revenue Estimate (estimated to be \$0) to Strategy A.1.1. Operations, Education, and Outreach.

- (a) Any unexpended and unobligated balances of appropriations for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2023, (estimated to be \$0) are appropriated to the department for the same purposes for the fiscal year beginning September 1, 2023. In addition, any unexpended and unobligated balances of appropriations for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2024, are appropriated to the department for the same purposes for the fiscal year beginning September 1, 2024.
- (b) Notwithstanding Article IX, Part 14 of this act, the Department of Insurance, out of amounts appropriated by this rider may make transfers to another appropriation item for the purpose of modernizing agency technology and operations.

### Senate

**14. Appropriation: Agent and Adjuster Licensing Fee Collections.** In addition to amounts appropriated above, out of funds collected from agent and adjuster licensing fees (revenue object code 3210) deposited to General Revenue-Dedicated Texas Department of Insurance Operating Fund 36, the Department of Insurance is appropriated all amounts collected in excess of those contained in the Comptroller's January 2023 Biennial Revenue Estimate (estimated to be \$0) to Strategy A.1.1. Operations, Education, and Outreach.

- (a) Any unexpended and unobligated balances of appropriations for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2023, (estimated to be \$0) are appropriated to the department for the same purposes for the fiscal year beginning September 1, 2023. In addition, any unexpended and unobligated balances of appropriations for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2024, are appropriated to the department for the same purposes for the fiscal year beginning September 1, 2024.
- (b) Notwithstanding Article IX, Section 14.01, Appropriation Transfers of this Act, appropriations may not be transferred from Strategy A.1.1, Customer Operations, Education, and Outreach, to other strategies without prior written approval from the Legislative Budget Board.

# DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATION

Differences Only - Excludes Capital

## House

**5. Contingent Appropriation: Combative Sports Regulation.** In addition to the amounts appropriated above, the Department of Licensing and Regulation is appropriated \$30,000 out of funds collected by the agency and deposited to the General Revenue Fund during each fiscal year for the 2024-25 biennium, for each combative sports event managed by the department for which ticket sales exceed \$2,000,000 (estimated to be one event) contingent upon the Department of Licensing and Regulation assessing fees and taxes sufficient to generate \$30,000 for each such combative sports event. The Department of Licensing and Regulation shall complete all necessary actions to assess or increase such additional revenue. If the Comptroller finds the information sufficient to support the projection of increased revenues, a finding of fact shall be issued and the contingent appropriation shall be made available for the intended purpose.

**8. Reimbursement of Advisory Committee Members for Travel Expenses.** Pursuant to Government Code Section 2110.004, reimbursement of expenses for advisory committee members, out of funds appropriated above, is limited to the following advisory committees: Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Contractors Advisory Board; Advisory Board of Athletic Trainers; Architectural Barriers Advisory Committee; Auctioneer Advisory Board; Barbering and Cosmetology Advisory Board; Behavior Analysts Advisory Board; Board of Boiler Rules; Combative Sports Advisory Board; Code Enforcement Advisory Board; Dietitians Advisory Board; Driver Training and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee; Dyslexia Therapists and Practitioners Advisory Committee; Electrical Safety and Licensing Advisory Board; Elevator Advisory Board; Hearing Instrument Fitters and Dispensers Advisory Board; Texas Industrial Building Code Council; Licensed Breeders Advisory Committee; Massage Therapy Advisory Board; Midwives Advisory Board; Mold Assessors and Remediators Advisory Board; Motor Fuel Metering and Quality Advisory Board; Motorcycle Safety Advisory Board; Orthotists and Prosthetists Advisory Board; Podiatric Medical Examiners Advisory Board; Property Tax Consultants Advisory Council; Registered Sanitarian Advisory Committee; Speech-Language Pathologist and Audiologist Advisory Board; Texas Tax Professional Advisory Committee; Towing and Storage Advisory Board; Used Automotive Parts Recycling Advisory Board; Water Well Drillers Advisory Council; and Weather Modification Advisory Committee.

## Senate

**5. Contingent Appropriation: Combative Sports Regulation.** In addition to the amounts appropriated above, the Department of Licensing and Regulation is appropriated \$30,000 out of funds collected by the agency and deposited to the General Revenue Fund during each fiscal year for the 2024-25 biennium, for each combative sports event managed by the department for which ticket sales exceed \$2,000,000 (estimated to be one event) contingent upon the Department of Licensing and Regulation assessing fees and taxes sufficient to generate, in addition to revenue requirements elsewhere in this Act, during the 2024-25 biennium, \$30,000 for each such combative sports event in excess of \$1,512,000 in fiscal year 2024 and \$1,512,000 in fiscal year 2025 (Object Codes 3146 and 3147) contained in the Comptroller of Public Accounts' Biennial Revenue Estimate for each fiscal year. The Department of Licensing and Regulation upon completion of necessary actions to assess or increase such additional revenue shall furnish copies of the Department of Licensing and Regulation's minutes and other information supporting the estimated revenues to be generated for the 2024-25 biennium under the revised fee or tax structure to the Comptroller of Public Accounts. If the Comptroller finds the information sufficient to support the projection of increased revenues, a finding of fact shall be issued and the contingent appropriation shall be made available for the intended purpose.

**8. Reimbursement of Advisory Committee Members for Travel Expenses.** Pursuant to Government Code Section 2110.004, reimbursement of expenses for advisory committee members, out of funds appropriated above, is limited to the following advisory committees: Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Contractors Advisory Board; Advisory Board of Athletic Trainers; Architectural Barriers Advisory Committee; Auctioneer Advisory Board; Barbering and Cosmetology Advisory Board; Behavior Analysts Advisory Board; Board of Boiler Rules; Combative Sports Advisory Board; Code Enforcement Advisory Board; Dietitians Advisory Board; Driver Training and Traffic Safety Advisory Committee; Dyslexia Therapists and Practitioners Advisory Committee; Electrical Safety and Licensing Advisory Board; Elevator Advisory Board; Hearing Instrument Fitters and Dispensers Advisory Board; Texas Industrial Building Code Council; Licensed Breeders Advisory Committee; Massage Therapy Advisory Board; Midwives Advisory Board; Motor Fuel Metering and Quality Advisory Board; Motorcycle Safety Advisory Board; Orthotists and Prosthetists Advisory Board; Podiatric Medical Examiners Advisory Board; Property Tax Consultants Advisory Council; Registered Sanitarian Advisory Committee; Speech-Language Pathologist and Audiologist Advisory Board; Texas Tax Professional Advisory Committee; Towing and Storage Advisory Board; Used Automotive Parts Recycling Advisory Board; Water Well Drillers Advisory Council; and Weather Modification Advisory Committee.

## DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATION

Differences Only - Excludes Capital  
(Continued)

House

Senate

**11. Human Trafficking Prevention.** Notwithstanding Article VIII, Special Provisions Relating to all Regulatory Agencies, Sec. 2, Appropriations Limited to Revenue Collections, out of funds appropriated above for the Department of Licensing and Regulation, \$1,897,585 in General Revenue and 26.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions for fiscal year 2024, and \$1,814,144 in General Revenue and 26.0 FTE for fiscal year 2025 shall be used for inspections and enforcement actions by the Anti-Trafficking Unit.

**13. Motorcycle Operator Safety and Training.** Amounts appropriated above in Strategy A.1.1, Issue Licenses, Registrations, & Certificates to Qualified Individuals; Strategy A.1.3, Administer Exams to Applicants; Strategy A.1.4, Provide Customer Service; and Strategy C.1.3, Other Support Services, together include a total of \$512,882 each fiscal year from the Motorcycle Education Account No. 501 for transfer to the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service to be used for the development and administration of a motorcycle operator training and safety instruction program, and a total of \$575,000 from the Motorcycle Education Account No. 501 each fiscal year for transfer to the Texas A&M Transportation Institute to be used for motorcycle safety research, advocacy, and education.

**11. Human Trafficking Prevention.** Notwithstanding Article VIII, Special Provisions Relating to all Regulatory Agencies, Sec. 2, Appropriations Limited to Revenue Collections, out of funds appropriated above for the Department of Licensing and Regulation, \$1,126,349 in General Revenue and 18.0 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions for fiscal year 2024, and \$1,183,717 in General Revenue and 18.0 FTE for fiscal year 2025 shall be used for inspections and enforcement actions by the Anti-Trafficking Unit.

**13. Motorcycle Operator Safety and Training.** Amounts appropriated above in Strategy A.1.1, Issue Licenses, Registrations, & Certificates to Qualified Individuals; Strategy A.1.3, Administer Exams to Applicants; Strategy A.1.4, Provide Customer Service; and Strategy C.1.3, Other Support Services, together include a total of \$201,882 each fiscal year from the Motorcycle Education Account No. 501 for transfer to the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service to be used for the development and administration of a motorcycle operator training and safety instruction program, and a total of \$235,000 from the Motorcycle Education Account No. 501 each fiscal year for transfer to the Texas A&M Transportation Institute to be used for motorcycle safety research, advocacy, and education.

# TEXAS MEDICAL BOARD

Differences Only - Excludes Capital

House

Senate

**5. Appropriation for Retirement Payments.** Included in amounts appropriated above as General Revenue to the Texas Medical Board 2024-25 biennium, in Strategy A.1.1, Licensing, is \$90,000 in each fiscal year; in Strategy B.1.1, Enforcement, is \$120,000 in each fiscal year; in Strategy B.1.2, Physician Health Program, is \$15,000 in each fiscal year; in Strategy B.2.1, Public Education, is \$15,000 in each fiscal year; in Strategy C.1.1, Indirect Administration - Licensing, is \$18,000; and in Strategy C.1.2, Indirect Administration - Enforcement, is \$42,000 in each fiscal year for payment of unused annual leave to retiring agency employees. Any part of the appropriation made for retirement payouts due at the time of agency employees' retirement that are not necessary for that purpose shall be lapsed by the agency at the end of the biennium.

**5. Unexpended Balance Appropriation: Texas Physician Health Program.** Unexpended balances remaining as of August 31, 2024, from appropriations made to the Texas Medical Board in Strategy B.1.2, Physician Health Program, in the 2024-2025 biennium are appropriated to the Texas Medical Board for the fiscal year beginning September 1, 2024, for the same purpose (estimated to be \$0).

## RACING COMMISSION

Differences Only - Excludes Capital

House

Senate

- 6. Clothing and Equipment Provisions.** Any additional revenues in the GR - Dedicated Texas Racing Commission Account No. 597 received from occupational and business license fees to cover the costs of deterring, investigating and adjudicating violations of the Texas Racing Act (Object Codes 3188, 3189, and 3196) above amounts included in the Comptroller of Public Accounts' Biennial Revenue Estimate for fiscal year 2024 and fiscal year 2025 (estimated to be \$0) are appropriated to the Racing Commission for the following purposes:
- (a) to provide for a commissioned officer who is newly hired or newly commissioned a \$1,200 clothing allowance to purchase and maintain appropriate uniforms;
  - (b) to provide for a commissioned officer who is entitled to receive a clothing allowance to also receive a \$500 cleaning allowance irrespective of promotion to any rank; and
  - (c) to provide for any employee assigned to work in the veterinary or laboratory test barn or stable areas of a racetrack who is entitled to wear medical scrubs issued by the agency a \$1,200 clothing allowance to purchase protective boots, knee pads, back support, and protective items.
- 8. Moving Expenses.** Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, and with the approval of the Executive Director, the Racing Commission may use appropriated funds to pay the reasonable, necessary, and resulting costs of moving the household goods and effects of an employee of the Racing Commission who is transferred from one designated field office or headquarters to another so long as the Racing Commission determines that the best interests of the State will be served by such transfer.
- 10. Horseracing Economic Impact Study.** Out of amounts appropriated above in Strategy C.1.1, \$75,000 in fiscal year 2024 may be used by the Racing Commission to conduct an economic impact study to determine the statewide financial impact of horseracing and the current and future benefit to Texas in urban and rural communities and counties. The study shall be used for the purposes of determining the return on investment of supporting the growth of the horseracing industry in Texas from calendar year 2025 to 2035.
- 11. State Contribution to Group Insurance for Retired Employees of the Racing Commission.** Notwithstanding the provisions of Article IX, Section 6.08, subsection (a), of this Act, the state contribution to group health insurance coverage for retired employees of the Racing Commission shall be paid from the General Revenue Fund.

# PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF TEXAS

Differences Only - Excludes Capital

House

Senate

**5. Enhanced Analytics Reporting.** Out of funds appropriated above, the Public Utility Commission of Texas shall report to the Legislative Budget Board, the Sunset Advisory Commission, and the Legislature on an annual basis by December 1 of each year the activities and findings of the agency's enhanced analytic capabilities provided by the Data Analysis Team and expanded engineering expertise. The report shall include, at a minimum:

- (a) The number of projects conducted by the Data Analytics Team or in which the team participated for the prior fiscal year. Projects include research conducted by the team or a problem studied by the team, and is reported to one or more of staff at PUC or ERCOT, a PUC commissioner, an ERCOT board member, the Independent Market Monitor (IMM), or a consultant. Projects also include verification of data received from ERCOT, the IMM, a consultant, or a utility.
- (b) A short description and status of each significant project in which the team participated.
- (c) A listing of any software license or hardware purchased to support the agency's enhanced analytic capabilities in the prior fiscal year.
- (d) Any notable outcomes or efficiencies that occurred in the prior fiscal year as a result of the agency's enhanced analytic capabilities.
- (e) Any recommendations for future performance measures related to the agency's enhanced analytic capabilities.

Additional information requested by the Legislative Budget Board or Sunset Advisory Commission should be provided in a timely manner. The request and information provided subsequently shall be prepared in a format specified by the Legislative Budget Board.

## BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICAL EXAMINERS

Differences Only - Excludes Capital

House

Senate

3. **Contingency on SB 1414/HB 1560.** Funds appropriated above for fiscal year 2024 and fiscal year 2025 for the Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners' exceptional items are made contingent on the continuation of the Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners by the Eighty-eighth Legislature, Regular Session, 2023.
  
4. **State Office of Administrative Hearings Cases.** Amounts appropriated above include \$25,000 in General Revenue funding in Strategy A.2.1, Complaints and Action, each fiscal year to be used for case preparation associated with cases anticipated to be filled with the State Office of Administrative Hearings.



## SPECIAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO ALL REGULATORY AGENCIES

Differences Only - Excludes Capital

House

Senate

### Sec. 8. Additional Five Percent Salary Increase for Specified Agencies.

- (a) In this section, "specified agencies salary increase" means:
- (1) a 5.0 percent increase in monthly salary effective September 1, 2023, for the employees of the agencies listed under Subsection (b); and
  - (2) any related employee benefits costs associated with the specified agencies salary increase described by Subsection (a)(1), including contributions required by Article IX, Sections 17.03 and 17.06.
- (b) Amounts appropriated elsewhere in this Act in an individual "salary adjustments" strategy item located within each of the following state agencies' bill patterns include the following amounts from the following sources which are to be used for the specified agencies salary increase described by this section:
- (1) State Office of Administrative Hearings, \$1,032,534 from the general revenue fund;
  - (2) Behavioral Health Executive Council, \$366,162 from the general revenue fund;
  - (3) Texas State Board of Dental Examiners, \$308,910 from the general revenue fund;
  - (4) Health Professions Council, \$63,005 from the general revenue fund;
  - (5) Office of Injured Employee Counsel, \$893,162 from the general revenue-dedicated account Texas Department of Insurance Operating Fund Account No. 0036;
  - (6) Department of Licensing and Regulation, \$3,687,692 from the general revenue fund;
  - (7) Texas Medical Board, \$1,254,640 from the general revenue fund;
  - (8) Texas Board of Nursing, \$882,516 from the general revenue fund;
  - (9) Executive Council of Physical Therapy & Occupational Therapy Examiners, \$116,496 from the general revenue fund;

## SPECIAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO ALL REGULATORY AGENCIES

Differences Only - Excludes Capital  
(Continued)

House

Senate

(10) Securities Board, \$692,460, from the general revenue fund; and

(11) Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners, \$119,264 from the general revenue fund.

- (c) The amounts identified under Subsection (b) include money from the general revenue fund and general revenue dedicated accounts that is intended to provide the specified agencies salary increase described by this section for any employee currently paid from federal funds that are not available for that purpose.
- (d) The provisions of Article IX, Section 6.08, requiring salaries and benefits to be paid proportionally from each source of funding are incorporated into this section by reference and apply to funds appropriated for a specified agencies salary increase as identified under Subsection (b). If necessary, each agency shall pay the specified agencies salary increase described by Subsection (b) from funds held in the state treasury and from local funds in the same proportion as the employee's regular compensation is paid, unless the employee's salary is paid from federal funds that are not available for that purpose.
- (e) The Comptroller of Public Accounts shall adopt rules as necessary to administer this section.
- (f) A state agency that receives appropriations of money described under Subsection (b) may not increase fees or taxes to offset the appropriation. For the state agencies identified under Subsection (b) that are subject to a provision limiting the amount appropriated to the agency to revenues collected by the agency, the amount necessary to provide employees the specified agencies salary increase is included in the amount identified under Subsection (b).
- (g) The specified agencies salary increase provided under this section applies to part-time employees hired pursuant to Government Code, Section 658.009. For purposes of this section, in computing the specified agencies salary increase described by this section for those part-time employees, the amount provided for each employee must be proportional to the number of hours the employee works per week as compared to a 40-hour work week.
- (h) Notwithstanding other restrictions on transfers of appropriations from one strategy to another, the funds appropriated elsewhere in this Act for the specified agencies salary increase as identified in subsection (b) may be transferred to other strategies without limitation for the purpose of implementing the salary increase.

## SPECIAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO ALL REGULATORY AGENCIES

Differences Only - Excludes Capital  
(Continued)

**House**

**Senate**

- (i) The September 1, 2023, increase provided by Article IX, Section 17.18, and the September 1, 2023, specified agencies salary increase provided by this section shall be calculated independently of one another.