

# Office of Injured Employee Counsel Summary of Budget Recommendations - House

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Method of Financing	2022-23 Base	2024-25 Recommended	Biennial Change (\$)	Biennial Change (%)
General Revenue Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
GR Dedicated Funds	\$17,402,826	\$18,754,792	\$1,351,966	7.8%
Total GR-Related Funds	\$17,402,826	\$18,754,792	\$1,351,966	7.8%
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
Other	\$35	\$0	(\$35)	(100.0%)
All Funds	\$17,402,861	\$18,754,792	\$1,351,931	7.8%

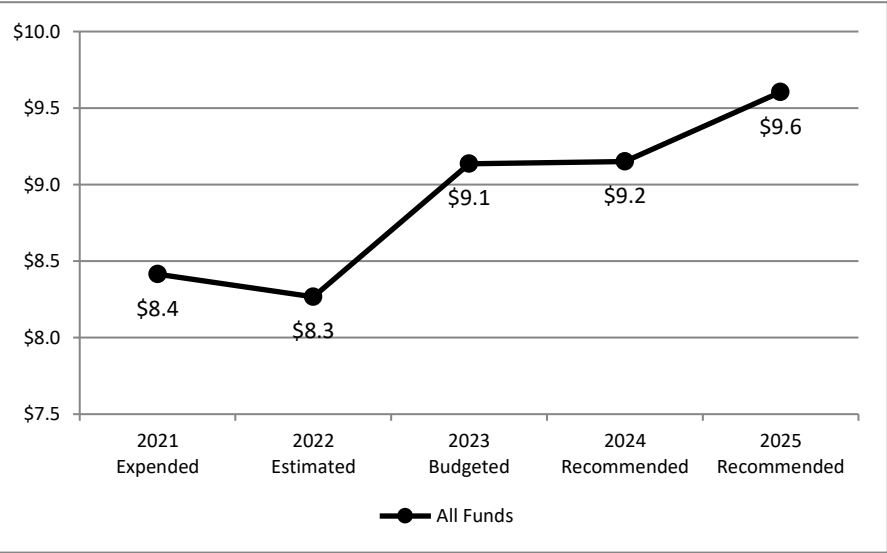
	FY 2023 Budgeted	FY 2025 Recommended	Biennial Change	Percent Change
FTEs	162.8	162.8	0.0	0.0%

## Agency Budget and Policy Issues and/or Highlights

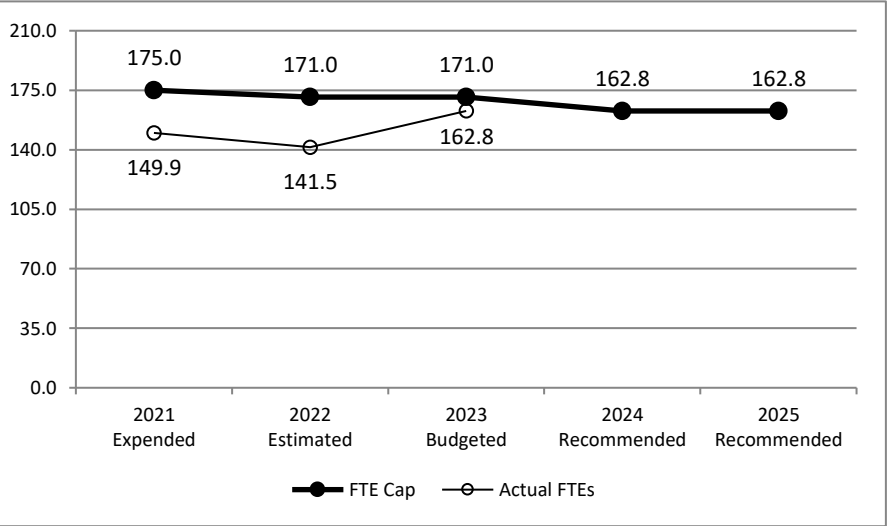
The Office of Injured Employee Counsel (OIEC) advocates on behalf of injured employees in the workers' compensation system. Pursuant to Texas Insurance Code, Subtitle C, the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) is required by statute to adjust taxes and fees to generate revenue equivalent to TDI's appropriations and the appropriations made to OIEC.

The bill pattern for this agency (2024-25 Recommended) represents an estimated 100.0% of the agency's estimated total available funds for the 2024-25 biennium.

Historical Funding Levels (Millions)



Historical Full-Time-Equivalent Employees (FTEs)



Office of Injured Employee Counsel  
Summary of Funding Changes and Recommendations - House

Funding Changes and Recommendations for the 2024-25 Biennium compared to the 2022-23 Base Spending Level (in millions)		General Revenue	GR-Dedicated	Federal Funds	Other Funds	All Funds	Strategy in Appendix A
OTHER Funding Changes and Recommendations (these issues are not addressed in Section 3 but details are provided in Appendix A):							
A)	Increase for the general state employee salary increases.	\$0.0	\$1.4	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$1.4	A.1.1, B.1.1, C.1.1, D.1.1
TOTAL SIGNIFICANT & OTHER Funding Changes and Recommendations (in millions)		\$0.0	\$1.4	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$1.4	As Listed
SIGNIFICANT & OTHER Funding Increases		\$0.0	\$1.4	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$1.4	As Listed
SIGNIFICANT & OTHER Funding Decreases		\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	As Listed

NOTE: Totals may not sum due to rounding.

**Office of Injured Employee Counsel  
Selected Fiscal and Policy Issues - House**

1. **Administrative Attachment and Self-Leveling Funding.** The Office of Injured Employee Counsel (OIEC) advocates on behalf of injured employees in the workers' compensation system. OIEC is funded entirely from the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) Operating Fund 36 and the workers' compensation maintenance taxes. Pursuant to Texas Insurance Code, Subtitle C, TDI is required by statute to adjust taxes and fees to generate revenue equivalent to TDI's appropriations and the appropriations made to OIEC.

Pursuant to Texas Labor Code, Chapter 404, OIEC is administratively attached to TDI, which provides administrative assistance and services, personnel services, and computer equipment and support.

Office of Injured Employee Counsel  
Items Not Included in Recommendations - House

		2024-25 Biennial Total					
		GR & GR-D	All Funds	FTEs	Information Technology Involved?	Contracting Involved?	Estimated Continued Cost 2026-27
Agency Exceptional Items Not Included (in agency priority order)							
1)	General Revenue-Dedicated funding for a 10% agency-wide salary increase to account for equity adjustments for all positions and includes the reclassification of agency Ombudsmen II and III to Ombudsmen IV, V, or VI.	\$2,950,000	\$2,950,000	0.0	No	No	\$2,950,000
2)	General Revenue-Dedicated funding to increase the exempt position salary for the Public Counsel by \$20,000 each fiscal year of the 2024-25 biennium. Increase fiscal year 2024 from \$159,195 to \$179,195 and increase fiscal year 2025 from \$165,340 to \$185, 340.	\$40,000	\$40,000	0.0	No	No	\$40,000
TOTAL Items Not Included in Recommendations		\$2,990,000	\$2,990,000	0.0			\$2,990,000

Office of Injured Employee Counsel  
Appendices - House

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\* Appendix is not included - no significant information to report

Office of Injured Employee Counsel					
Funding Changes and Recommendations by Strategy - House -- ALL FUNDS					
Strategy/Goal	2022-23 Base	2024-25 Recommended	Biennial Change	% Change	Comments
					Unless otherwise specified, Method of Finance references below to General Revenue-Dedicated (GR-D) are related to General Revenue-Dedicated Texas Department of Insurance Operating Fund Account No. 36.
OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM A.1.1	\$9,117,905	\$9,468,022	\$350,117	3.8%	Reallocation of funding from Strategy B.1.1, Rights Responsibilities and Referral, and C.1.1, Advocate for Injured Employees, to Strategy A.1.1, Ombudsman Program, for salaries and wages.
					Increase in GR-D for public counsel salary increase.
<b>Total, Goal A, OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM</b>	<b>\$9,117,905</b>	<b>\$9,468,022</b>	<b>\$350,117</b>	<b>3.8%</b>	
RIGHTS RESPONSIBILITIES & REFERRAL B.1.1	\$3,826,560	\$3,685,955	(\$140,605)	(3.7%)	Funding reallocated to Strategy A.1.1, Ombudsman Program, for salaries and wages.
					Increase in GR-D for public counsel salary increase.
<b>Total, Goal B, EDUCATION AND REFERRAL</b>	<b>\$3,826,560</b>	<b>\$3,685,955</b>	<b>(\$140,605)</b>	<b>(3.7%)</b>	
ADVOCATE FOR INJURED EMPLOYEES C.1.1	\$4,458,396	\$4,270,286	(\$188,110)	(4.2%)	Funding reallocated to Strategy A.1.1, Ombudsman Program, for salaries and wages.
					Increase in GR-D for public counsel salary increase.
<b>Total, Goal C, ADVOCATE FOR INJURED EMPLOYEES</b>	<b>\$4,458,396</b>	<b>\$4,270,286</b>	<b>(\$188,110)</b>	<b>(4.2%)</b>	
SALARY ADJUSTMENTS D.1.1	\$0	\$1,330,529	\$1,330,529	100.0%	Increase in GR-D for general state employee salary increases.
<b>Total, Goal D, SALARY ADJUSTMENTS</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,330,529</b>	<b>\$1,330,529</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	
<b>Grand Total, All Strategies</b>	<b>\$17,402,861</b>	<b>\$18,754,792</b>	<b>\$1,351,931</b>	<b>7.8%</b>	

Office of Injured Employee Counsel  
FTE Highlights - House

Full-Time-Equivalent Positions	Expended 2021	Estimated 2022	Budgeted 2023	Recommended 2024	Recommended 2025
Cap	175.0	171.0	171.0	162.8	162.8
Actual/Budgeted	149.9	141.5	162.8	NA	NA

Schedule of Exempt Position					
Public Counsel, Group 4	\$151,048	\$151,048	\$151,048	\$158,194	\$165,339

Notes:

- a) The State Auditor's Office is the source for the FY 2021 and FY 2022 annual average (actual) FTE levels.
- b) The State Auditor's Office Report, Executive Compensation at State Agencies (Report 22-706, August 2022), indicates an average market salary of \$165,339 for the Public Counsel position at the Office of Injured Employee Counsel. The report also recommends changing the salary classification from group 4 to group 5 (\$122,500-\$197,415).