

**Office of Public Insurance Counsel  
Summary of Recommendations - Senate**

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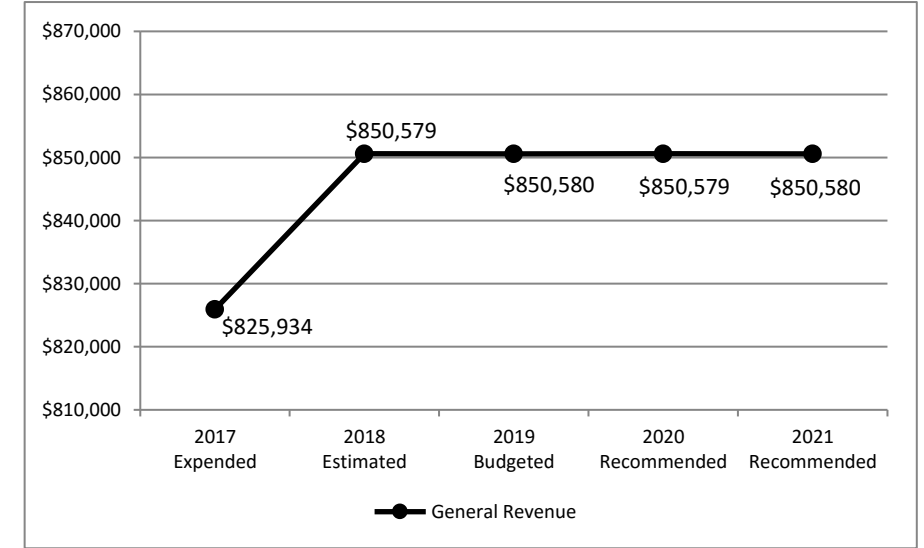
Melissa Hamilton, Public Counsel

Caitlin Pearson, LBB Analyst

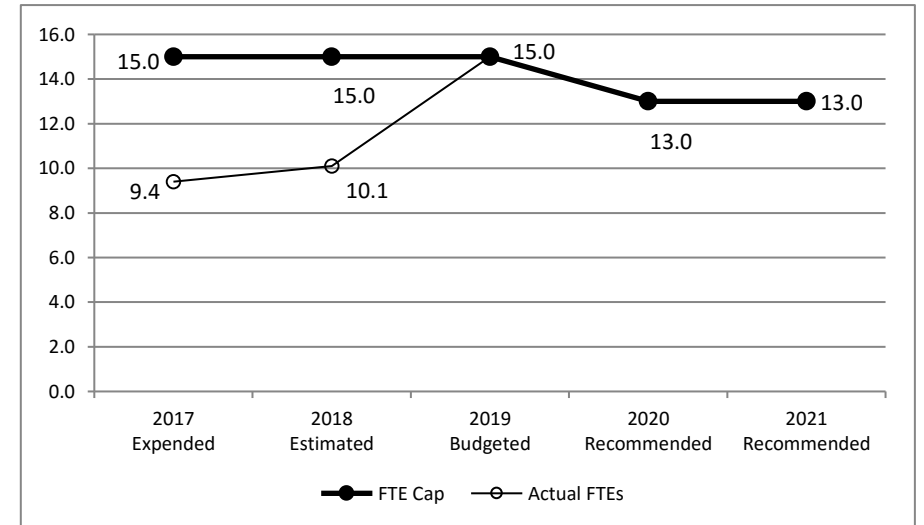
<b>Method of Financing</b>	<b>2018-19 Base</b>	<b>2020-21 Recommended</b>	<b>Biennial Change (\$)</b>	<b>Biennial Change (%)</b>
General Revenue Funds	\$1,701,159	\$1,701,159	\$0	0.0%
GR Dedicated Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
<i>Total GR-Related Funds</i>	<i>\$1,701,159</i>	<i>\$1,701,159</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>0.0%</i>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
Other	\$383,340	\$383,340	\$0	0.0%
<b>All Funds</b>	<b>\$2,084,499</b>	<b>\$2,084,499</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

	<b>FY 2019 Budgeted</b>	<b>FY 2021 Recommended</b>	<b>Biennial Change</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
FTEs	15.0	13.0	(2.0)	(13.3%)

**Historical Funding Levels**



**Historical Full-Time-Equivalent Employees (FTEs)**



The bill pattern for this agency (2020-21 Recommended) represents an estimated 100% of the agency's estimated total available funds for the 2020-21 biennium.

**Office of Public Insurance Counsel  
Selected Fiscal and Policy Issues - Senate**

1. **Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Cap.** The Office of Public Insurance Counsel (OPIC) represents Texas consumers on insurance rate and rule proceedings. The FTE cap in the agency's bill pattern for the 2018-19 biennium is 15.0 FTEs. OPIC has historically maintained an actual FTE level of approximately 10.5 FTEs. In the 2020-21 biennium, the agency anticipates funding 11.5 FTEs, including the addition of a new Communications and Media Specialist. Recommendations include a reduction in the agency's FTE cap to 13.0 FTEs to align with the agency's current funding level and provide flexibility in hiring additional full-time, part-time, or temporary staff.

**Office of Public Insurance Counsel  
Appendices - Senate**

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

\*\* Information is included in the presentation section of the packet

**Office of Public Insurance Counsel**  
**Funding Changes and Recommendations - Senate, by Strategy -- ALL FUNDS**

Strategy/Goal	2018-19 Base	2020-21 Recommended	Biennial Change	% Change
PARTICIPATE IN RATE/RULE HEARINGS A.1.1	\$1,701,159	\$1,701,159	\$0	0.0%
<b>Total, Goal A, ADVOCATE FOR INSURANCE CONSUMERS</b>	<b>\$1,701,159</b>	<b>\$1,701,159</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
INSURANCE INFORMATION B.1.1	\$383,340	\$383,340	\$0	0.0%
<b>Total, Goal B, INCREASE CONSUMER CHOICE</b>	<b>\$383,340</b>	<b>\$383,340</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Grand Total, All Strategies</b>	<b>\$2,084,499</b>	<b>\$2,084,499</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

**Office of Public Insurance Counsel  
Summary of Ten Percent Biennial Base Reduction Options - Senate**

Priority	Item	Description/Impact	Biennial Reduction Amounts			Potential Revenue Loss	Reduction as % of Program GR/GR-D Total	Program GR/GR-D Total	Included in Introduced Bill?
			GR & GR-D	All Funds	FTEs				
1)	Rate Hearing & Rule Making Participation	The reduction would be achieved by eliminating or significantly reducing expenses for computer equipment, furnishings, Return to Work, and magazines and other reference materials.	\$42,529	\$42,529	0.0	\$0	3%	\$1,701,159	N
2)	Rate Hearing & Rule Making Participation	The reduction would be achieved by eliminating or significantly reducing expenses for merit increases, consumable supplies, continuing legal education fees, and insurance premiums.	\$42,529	\$42,529	0.0	\$0	3%	\$1,701,159	N
3)	Rate Hearing & Rule Making Participation	The reduction would be achieved by eliminating or significantly reducing expenses for expert witness fees and travel related to consumer outreach efforts.	\$42,529	\$42,529	0.0	\$0	3%	\$1,701,159	N
4)	Rate Hearing & Rule Making Participation	The reduction would be achieved by eliminating or significantly reducing expenses for expert witness fees, travel and postage for consumer education efforts, legal reference materials, and computer software.	\$42,529	\$42,529	0.0	\$0	3%	\$1,701,159	N
<b>TOTAL, 10% Reduction Options</b>			<b>\$170,116</b>	<b>\$170,116</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>\$0</b>			