

**Office of Injured Employee Counsel  
Summary of Recommendations - Senate**

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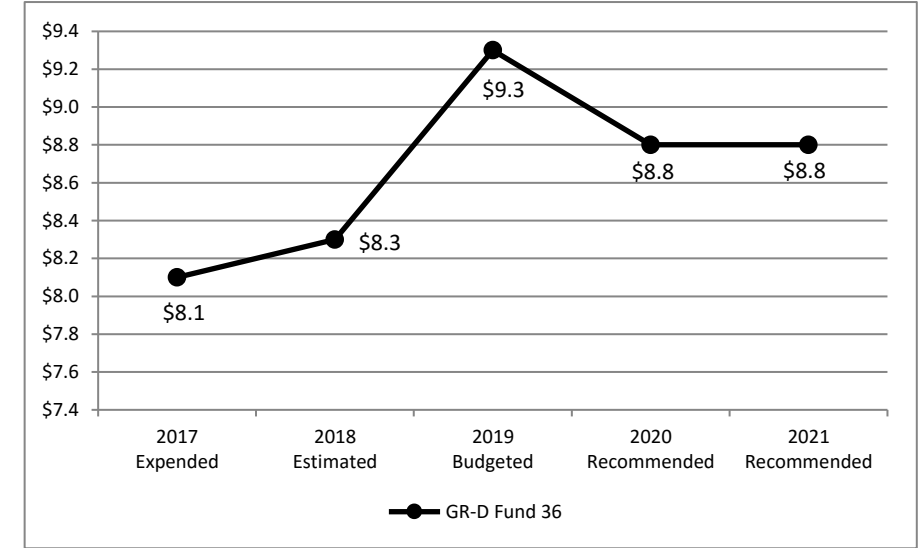
Jessica Barta, Public Counsel

Caitlin Pearson, LBB Analyst

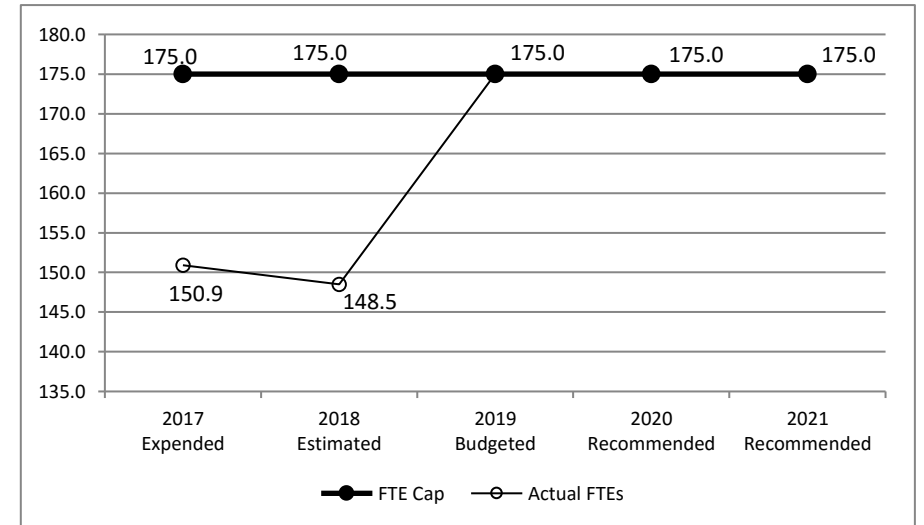
Method of Financing	2018-19 Base	2020-21 Recommended	Biennial Change (\$)	Biennial Change (%)
General Revenue Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
GR Dedicated Funds	\$17,528,266	\$17,528,266	\$0	0.0%
<i>Total GR-Related Funds</i>	<i>\$17,528,266</i>	<i>\$17,528,266</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>0.0%</i>
Federal Funds	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
Other	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
<b>All Funds</b>	<b>\$17,528,266</b>	<b>\$17,528,266</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

	FY 2019 Budgeted	FY 2021 Recommended	Biennial Change	Percent Change
FTEs	175.0	175.0	0.0	0.0%

**Historical Funding Levels (Millions)**



**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 Injured Employee Counsel**  
**Summary of Funding Changes and Recommendations - Senate**

<b>Funding Changes and Recommendations for the 2020-21 Biennium compared to the 2018-19 Base Spending Level</b>		<b>General Revenue</b>	<b>GR-Dedicated</b>	<b>Federal Funds</b>	<b>Other Funds</b>	<b>All Funds</b>	<b>Strategy in Appendix A</b>
<i>OTHER Funding Changes and Recommendations (these issues are not addressed in Section 3 but details are provided in Appendix A):</i>							
A)	Funding for FTE positions from other programs allocated to the Customer Services program.	\$0	(\$72,989)	\$0	\$0	(\$72,989)	A.1.1, C.1.1
B)	Funding to fill vacant FTE positions in the Customer Services program in the 2020-21 biennium.	\$0	\$72,989	\$0	\$0	\$72,989	B.1.1
<b>TOTAL OTHER Funding Changes and Recommendations</b>		<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>	As Listed
<i>OTHER Funding Increases</i>		\$0	\$72,989	\$0	\$0	\$72,989	As Listed
<i>OTHER Funding Decreases</i>		\$0	(\$72,989)	\$0	\$0	(\$72,989)	As Listed

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

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 its 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. Rider 3 in OIEC's bill pattern outlines amounts for the agency's administrative attachment. Recommendations include an increase to the amount allocated from \$875,000 to \$915,000 due to increasing rent costs at the TDI/OIEC shared workers' compensation field offices across the state. TDI absorbs these costs within its budget, and as a result, OIEC will not have any impacts in its budget. (See Rider Highlights #3)

Office of Injured Employee Counsel  
Rider Highlights - Senate

**Modification of Existing Riders**

3. **Administrative Attachment Budget.** Revise rider to adjust the amount allocated for OIEC administrative attachment costs from \$875,000 to \$915,000 each fiscal year due to increasing rent costs.

**Office of Injured Employee 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 Injured Employee Counsel**  
**Funding Changes and Recommendations - Senate, by Strategy -- ALL FUNDS**

Strategy/Goal	2018-19 Base	2020-21 Recommended	Biennial Change	% Change	Comments
OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM A.1.1	\$10,204,116	\$10,181,654	(\$22,462)	(0.2%)	Reallocation of funding from the Ombudsman and Legal Services programs in Strategies A.1.1. and C.1.1. to the Customer Service program in Strategy B.1.1. The agency states that vacant positions will be filled in that strategy in the 2020-21 biennium.
<b>Total, Goal A, OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM</b>	<b>\$10,204,116</b>	<b>\$10,181,654</b>	<b>(\$22,462)</b>	<b>(0.2%)</b>	
RIGHTS RESPONSIBILITIES & REFERRAL B.1.1	\$3,804,691	\$3,877,680	\$72,989	1.9%	
<b>Total, Goal B, EDUCATION AND REFERRAL</b>	<b>\$3,804,691</b>	<b>\$3,877,680</b>	<b>\$72,989</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	
ADVOCATE FOR INJURED EMPLOYEES C.1.1	\$3,519,459	\$3,468,932	(\$50,527)	(1.4%)	
<b>Total, Goal C, ADVOCATE FOR INJURED EMPLOYEES</b>	<b>\$3,519,459</b>	<b>\$3,468,932</b>	<b>(\$50,527)</b>	<b>(1.4%)</b>	
<b>Grand Total, All Strategies</b>	<b>\$17,528,266</b>	<b>\$17,528,266</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	

**Office of Injured Employee 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)	Eliminate 7 Employees in the Customer Services Program	Reduction of 7.0 FTEs would affect service levels to customers, including telephone and in-person service at the field offices, information provided to navigate the workers' compensation system, and early intervention to resolve disputes prior to an administrative proceeding.	\$447,891	\$447,891	7.0	\$447,891	12%	\$3,877,680	N
2)	Eliminate 7 Employees in the Customer Services Program	Reduction of 7.0 FTEs would affect service levels to customers, including telephone and in-person service at the field offices, information provided to navigate the workers' compensation system, and early intervention to resolve disputes prior to an administrative proceeding.	\$461,466	\$461,466	7.0	\$461,466	12%	\$3,877,680	N
3)	Eliminate 6 Employees in the Customer Services Program	Reduction of 6.0 FTEs would affect service levels to customers, including telephone and in-person service at the field offices, information provided to navigate the workers' compensation system, and early intervention to resolve disputes prior to an administrative proceeding.	\$423,704	\$423,704	6.0	\$423,704	11%	\$3,877,680	N
4)	Eliminate 6 Employees in the Customer Services Program	Reduction of 6.0 FTEs would affect service levels to customers, including telephone and in-person service at the field offices, information provided to navigate the workers' compensation system, and early intervention to resolve disputes prior to an administrative proceeding.	\$419,766	\$419,766	6.0	\$419,766	11%	\$3,877,680	N
<b>TOTAL, 10% Reduction Options</b>			<b>\$1,752,827</b>	<b>\$1,752,827</b>	<b>26.0</b>	<b>\$1,752,827</b>			