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To: Texas Workers' Compensation System Participants

From: Kara Mace, General Counsel

Date: [March 28, 2024](#)

Subject: Proposal to Amend Chapter 147, Dispute Resolution--Agreements, Settlements, Commutations

The Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) is accepting public comments on a proposed rule amending 28 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 147 concerning dispute resolution through agreements and settlements. The rulemaking will amend 28 TAC Sections [147.4](#), [147.5](#), [147.7](#), [147.10](#), and [147.11](#); repeal 28 TAC Sections [147.1](#), [147.2](#), [147.3](#), [147.6](#), [147.8](#), and [147.9](#); and add new Section 147.1.

Chapter 147 implements Texas Labor Code Sections [401.011](#), [408.005](#), [410.029](#), [410.030](#), and [410.258](#). The amendments will:

- Condense some sections into others, so the rule is more organized and easier to navigate.
- Remove some sections and subsections that are outdated and unnecessary.
- Remove references to penalties specific to certain violations of agreements and settlements because Labor Code Chapter 415 and 28 TAC Chapter 180 address these penalties.
- Update citations, remove obsolete references, and make plain language updates and agency style editorial changes.

These amendments will streamline the agreements and settlements process and remove unnecessary work for DWC staff.

The proposed rule will be published in the April 5, 2024, issue of the *Texas Register* and available at www.sos.state.tx.us/texreg/index.shtml once published. We will also post a copy of the proposed rule on the TDI website at <https://www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/rules/2024rules.html>.

You may submit written comments on the proposed rule to:

RuleComments@tdi.texas.gov, or mail or deliver your comments to:

Legal Services, MC-LS
Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation
PO Box 12050
Austin, Texas 78711-2050

The deadline to submit comments is 5 p.m., Central time, on May 6, 2024.