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To: Texas Workers' Compensation System Participants

From: Kara Mace, General Counsel

Date: December 13, 2023

Subject: Adopted rules on expedited benefits for members of the Texas military forces

(implementing House Bill 90)

The Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) adopted amendments to Title 28, Texas Administrative Code (28 TAC), Sections <u>133.240</u>, <u>133.250</u>, <u>133.305</u>, <u>133.308</u>, and <u>134.600</u>, concerning medical disputes for workers' compensation claims, without changes to the proposed text. The amendments implement Texas Labor Code Sections <u>401.027</u>, <u>501.001</u>, <u>501.027</u>, <u>501.028</u>, and <u>501.029</u>, which were added or amended by House Bill (HB) 90, 88th Legislature, Regular Session (2023).

The amendments are necessary to implement changes made by HB 90 clarifying workers' compensation coverage for authorized travel by members of the Texas military forces. The amendments also ensure that insurance carriers expedite claims for medical benefits by injured members of the Texas military forces, and that DWC expedites medical disputes about those claims required under HB 90. The amendments also include an update to the agency's address and nonsubstantive editorial and formatting changes that make updates for plain language and agency style to improve clarity.

The rules were published in the November 3, 2023, issue of the Texas Register at 48 TexReg 6451 and 48 TexReg 6455. DWC received no oral comments and one written comment by the December 4, 2023, deadline. The commenter supported the rules.