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- To: Texas Workers' Compensation System Participants
- From: Kara Mace, General Counsel
- Date: <u>October 25, 2023</u>
- RE: Proposed 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) is proposing 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. The proposed rules 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 proposed rules are necessary to implement the changes in HB 90 by clarifying workers' compensation coverage for authorized travel by members of the Texas military forces, ensuring that insurance carriers expedite claims for medical benefits by injured members of the Texas military forces, and ensuring that DWC expedites disputes about those claims. The proposed rules 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 proposed rules will be published in the November 3, 2023, issue of the *Texas Register* and available at <u>www.sos.state.tx.us/texreg/index.shtml</u> once published. We will also post a copy on the TDI website at <u>www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/rules/2023rules.html</u>.

You may submit written comments or requests for a hearing on the proposed rules to: <u>RuleComments@tdi.texas.gov</u>, 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 December 4, 2023.