

**Senate Finance Committee
Riders - Article VIII**

Adopted

March 12, 2025

Legislative Budget Board

By: Schwertner



**Office of Public Utility Counsel, Article VIII
Proposed Funding and Rider
Data Analytics Team**

Prepared by LBB Staff, 02/26/2025

Overview

Increase General Revenue Fund appropriations for the Office of Public Utility Counsel by \$1,200,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$1,200,000 in fiscal year 2027 in Strategy B.1.1, Participation in Utility Projects, and provide authority for an additional 3.0 FTEs in each fiscal year and add a rider that directs the allocation for developing a data analytic team.

Required Action

1. On page VIII-56 of the Office of Public Utility Counsel's bill pattern in Senate Bill 1, increase General Revenue Fund appropriations in Strategy B.1.1, Participation in Utility Projects, in the amounts of \$1,200,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$1,200,000 in fiscal year 2027.
2. On page VIII-56 of the Office of Public Utility Counsel's bill pattern in Senate Bill 1, increase the Number of Full-Time-Equivalents (FTE) from 25.0 to 28.0 in fiscal year 2026 and from 25.0 to 28.0 in fiscal year 2027.
3. On page VIII-58 of the Office of Public Insurance Counsel's bill pattern in Senate Bill 1, add the following new rider:

_____. **Data Analytics Team.** Out of amounts appropriated above in Strategy B.1.1, Participation in Utility Projects, the Office of Public Utility Counsel shall allocate \$1,200,000 and 3.0 FTEs each fiscal year to develop a data analytic team.

**Senate Finance Committee
Riders - Article VIII**

Article XI

March 12, 2025

Legislative Budget Board



By Middleton / Flores

Department of Licensing and Regulation
Article VIII
Anti-Human Trafficking Intelligence Center
Contingency for Senate Bill 389

Overview

There has been a realized need for a centralized effort to combat human trafficking. Senate Bill 389 seeks to create the Anti-Human Trafficking Intelligence Center within the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation to act as the centralized state response to human trafficking. The Anti-Human Trafficking Intelligence Center will collaborate across agencies to create a unified effort in preventing and uncovering human trafficking. The Center will be formed in similar fashion to TDLR's Financial Crimes Intelligence Center, which the Department has had great success with.

Required Action

On page VIII-26 of Senate Bill 1, Eighty-ninth Legislature, Regular Session, 2025, of the Department of Licensing and Regulation's bill pattern, add the following:

- On page VIII-26 of Senate Bill 1, Eighty-ninth Legislature, Regular Session, 2025, increase General Revenue appropriations to the Department of Licensing and Regulation by \$3,000,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$3,000,000 in fiscal year 2027;
- On page VIII-27 of Senate Bill 1, Eighty-ninth Legislature, Regular Session, 2025, in Strategy B.1.1., Conduct Inspections, increase appropriations by \$3,000,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$3,000,000 for fiscal year 2027; and
- On page VIII-31 of Senate Bill 1, Eighty-ninth Legislature, Regular Session, 2025, in the Department of Licensing and Regulation's bill pattern, add the following rider:

Contingency for Senate Bill 389. Contingent on the enactment of Senate Bill 389, Eighty-ninth Legislature, Regular Session, or similar legislation, relating to the establishment of an anti-human trafficking intelligence center, out of amounts appropriated in Strategy B.1.1., Conduct Inspections, \$3,000,000 from the General Revenue Fund in fiscal year 2026 and \$3,000,000 from the General Revenue Fund in fiscal year 2027 are appropriated for the purpose of implementing the legislation. Any unexpended balances on hand in this strategy at the end of fiscal year 2026 are hereby appropriated for the same purpose in fiscal year 2027.



By: Johnson/Alvarado

Public Utility Commission of Texas, Article VIII
Electric Customer Assistance Fund

Overview

The following action adds a new rider that directs \$250,000,000 to assist low-income electric customers with bill payment assistance, contingent on the passage of 89R SB 1513. The fund would provide discounts and one-time bill payment assistance to low-income and critical care customers.

Required Action

On page VIII-XX of the Public Utility Commission of Texas bill pattern, add the following new rider:

_____ **Electric Customer Assistance Fund.** Contingent on enactment of SB 1513 or similar legislation relating to the creation of a financial assistance fund for retail electric customers, by the Eighty-Ninth Legislature, Regular Session, the Public Utility Commission of Texas is appropriated \$125 million in fiscal year 2026 and \$125 million in fiscal year 2027 from General Revenue to administer and distribute available funds to low-income and critical care customers.

**Senate Finance Committee
Riders - Article VIII**

Not Adopted

March 12, 2025

Legislative Budget Board

Judith Zaffirini

By: Zaffirini

**Article VIII, Behavioral Health Executive Council
Spanish Language Social Work Licensing Exam**

Prepared by LBB Staff, 2/24/2025

Overview

Add a rider to the Behavioral Health Executive Council bill pattern requiring the allocation of \$400,000 in General Revenue funds during the 2026-27 biennium for the purpose of contracting for the development of a Spanish social working licensing exam(s) for three levels of social worker licensure.

Required Action

On page VIII-6 in the Behavioral Health Executive Council bill pattern, add the following rider:

- ____. **Spanish Language Social Work Licensing Exam.** Out of funds appropriated above in Strategy A.1.1, Licensure, \$400,000 from the General Revenue fund for the 2026- 27 biennium shall be used for the purpose of the Behavioral Health Executive Council contracting for the development of Spanish-language social work licensing exams for the following levels of licensure: Licensed Baccalaureate Social Worker, Licensed Master's Social Worker, and Licensed Clinical Social Worker. The council shall release the exam to applicants by November 1, 2027.



By: Alvarado

Health and Human Services Commission
Proposed Funding and Rider
Federally Qualified Health Center Primary Access Care Program

Overview

This rider will provide funding to implement the Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) Primary Care Access program detailed in Chapter 76 of the Health and Safety Code. This pilot program seeks to improve access to comprehensive direct primary care for uninsured and underinsured working adults and their dependents by utilizing existing FQHCs. The state, the employer, and the employee will each contribute to a flat monthly membership fee paid to the FQHC from which the employee receives care.

Increase General Revenue Funds by \$8.0 million in fiscal year 2026 and \$12.0 million in fiscal year 2027 and add a rider in the Department of Insurance bill pattern directing the use of these General Revenue Fund appropriations to fund the Federally Qualified Health Center Primary Care Access pilot program.

Required Action

- 1) On page VIII-18 in the Department of Insurance bill pattern, increase appropriations in Strategy B.2.2, Life and Health Regulation, in fiscal year 2026 by \$8,000,000 and in fiscal year 2027 by \$12,000,000 in General Revenue Funds.
- 2) On page VIII-24 in the Department of Insurance bill pattern, add the following rider:

XX. Federally Qualified Health Center Primary Access Care Program. Included in amounts appropriated above in Strategy B.2.2. Life and Health Regulation, is \$8,000,000 in General Revenue funds in fiscal year 2026 and \$12,000,000 in General Revenue funds for fiscal year 2027 to provide uninsured or underinsured working adults employed at small businesses, and their dependents, with comprehensive direct primary care, as defined in Chapter 76 of the Health and Safety Code..

By:

Hall

Article VIII, Department of Insurance
Proposed Funding and Rider
Guidelines Licensing Contract

Prepared by LBB Staff, 2/27/2025

Overview

Increase General Revenue Funds by \$4.8 million in fiscal year 2026 and add rider to the Department of Insurance bill pattern directing the use of these General Revenue Fund appropriations to engage in a contract to ensure workers' compensation system providers have access to treatment and return-to-work as required by the Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 137, Sections 137.100 and 137.10 and providing unexpended balance authority within the biennium for these funds.

Required Action

- 1) On page VIII-18 of the Department of Insurance bill pattern, increase appropriations in Strategy D.1.1, Oversight and Compliance, in fiscal year 2026 by \$4,800,000 in General Revenue Funds.
- 2) On page VIII-24 of the Department of Insurance bill pattern, add the following new rider:

_____. Guidelines Licensing Contract. Amounts appropriated above include \$4,800,000 in General Revenue funds in Strategy D.1.1, Oversight and Compliance, in fiscal year 2026 to fund an agency contract to ensure workers' compensation system providers have access to the treatment and return-to-work guidelines as required by the Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 137, Sections 137.00 and 137.10. Any unexpended and unobligated balance of appropriations for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2026, are appropriated to the department for the same purposes for the fiscal year beginning September 1, 2026.



By: Hall

Article VIII, Texas Medical Board
Proposed Rider
Apology for Disciplinary Records
Prepared by Senator Hall's Office, 2/28/2025

Overview

Add a rider to the Texas Medical Board bill pattern requiring the agency to formally apologize to doctors who in any way were victims of disciplinary records containing the words "hydroxychloroquine", "ivermectin", or "mask".

Required Action

On page VIII-31 in the Texas Medical Board bill pattern, add the following rider:
_____. Formally apologize to doctors who are the victim disciplinary records. Out of funds appropriated above, the Texas Medical Board must utilize any supplies and staff as needed so as to send formal apology letters to doctors who in any way were victims of disciplinary records containing the words "hydroxychloroquine", "ivermectin", or "mask".



By: Hall

Article VIII, Texas Medical Board

Proposed Rider

Purging of Disciplinary Records

Prepared by Senator Hall's Office, 2/28/2025

Overview

Add a rider to the Texas Medical Board bill pattern requiring the agency to purge any and all disciplinary records regarding doctors who in any way were the mentioned in records containing the words "hydroxychloroquine", "ivermectin", or "mask".

Required Action

On page VIII-31 in the Texas Medical Board bill pattern, add the following rider:

_____. Purge disciplinary records. Out of funds appropriated above, the Texas Medical Board must purge any and all disciplinary records regarding doctors who in any way were the mentioned in records containing the words "hydroxychloroquine", "ivermectin", or "mask".



By: Hall

Article VIII, Texas Medical Board
Proposed Rider
Reimbursement of Legal Fees
Prepared by Senator Hall's Office, 2/28/2025

Overview

Add a rider to the Texas Medical Board bill pattern requiring the agency to reimburse legal fees incurred by doctors who are defendants in cases containing the words "hydroxychloroquine", "ivermectin", or "mask".

Required Action

On page VIII-31 in the Texas Medical Board bill pattern, add the following rider:
_____. Reimbursement of Legal Fees. Out of funds appropriated above, the Texas Medical Board must reimburse legal fees incurred by doctors who are, or were previously, defendants in cases containing the words "hydroxychloroquine", "ivermectin", or "mask".

By: Aylin S. Parker

**Texas State Board of Pharmacy, Article VIII
Proposed Rider**

Enhancing and Modernizing the Prescription Monitoring Program

2/26/25

Overview

Amend rider #4 to direct the Texas State Board of Pharmacy to support system enhancements and modernization of the Prescription Monitoring Program.

Required Action

1. On page VIII-XX of the Texas State Board of Pharmacy bill pattern, increase appropriations in Strategy B.1.3, Prescription Monitoring Program, by \$1,300,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$990,000 in fiscal year 2027 from the Opioid Abatement Account No. 5189.
2. On page VIII-XX of the Texas State Board of Pharmacy bill pattern, amend rider #4 to read as follows:
 4. **Prescription Monitoring Program.** Amounts appropriated above in Strategy B.1.3, Prescription Monitoring Program, include \$3,700,750 in fiscal year 2026 and \$3,700,750 in fiscal year 2027 from the General Revenue Funds to implement Narxcare and Statewide Integration. These amounts are exempt from Article VIII, Special Provisions Relating to all Regulatory Agencies, Section 2, Appropriations Limited to Revenue Collections.

Included in amounts appropriated above is \$1,300,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$990,000 in fiscal year 2027 from the Opioid Abatement Account No. 5189 to implement system enhancements related to the Prescription Monitoring Program, including an alert mechanism capable of identifying lapses in treatment for patients prescribed buprenorphine or other medications for the treatment of opioid use disorder, and the presentation of non-fatal overdose events in the patient report provided within the Prescription Monitoring Program.

The Texas State Board of Pharmacy is authorized to contract with the Texas Health Services Authority (THSA) or other health information exchanges established under Section 531 of the Texas Government Code to facilitate the secure transfer of data related to non-fatal drug overdoses into the Prescription Monitoring Program.

By: C. Schmitt

**Texas State Board of Pharmacy, Article VIII
Proposed Rider**

Enhancing and Modernizing the Prescription Monitoring Program

2/28/25

Overview

Amend rider #4 to direct the Texas State Board of Pharmacy to support system enhancements and modernization of the Prescription Monitoring Program.

Required Action

1. On page VIII-XX of the Texas State Board of Pharmacy bill pattern, increase appropriations in Strategy B.1.3, Prescription Monitoring Program, by \$1,300,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$990,000 in fiscal year 2027 from the Opioid Abatement Account No. 5189.
2. On page VIII-XX of the Texas State Board of Pharmacy bill pattern, amend rider #4 to read as follows:
 4. **Prescription Monitoring Program.** Amounts appropriated above in Strategy B.1.3, Prescription Monitoring Program, include \$3,700,750 in fiscal year 2026 and \$3,700,750 in fiscal year 2027 from the General Revenue Funds to implement Narxcare and Statewide Integration. These amounts are exempt from Article VIII, Special Provisions Relating to all Regulatory Agencies, Section 2, Appropriations Limited to Revenue Collections.

Included in amounts appropriated above is \$1,300,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$990,000 in fiscal year 2027 from the Opioid Abatement Account No. 5189 to implement system enhancements related to the Prescription Monitoring Program, including an alert mechanism capable of identifying lapses in treatment for patients prescribed buprenorphine or other medications for the treatment of opioid use disorder, and the presentation of non-fatal overdose events in the patient report provided within the Prescription Monitoring Program.

The Texas State Board of Pharmacy is authorized to contract with the Texas Health Services Authority (THSA) or other health information exchanges established under Section 531 of the Texas Government Code to facilitate the secure transfer of data related to non-fatal drug overdoses into the Prescription Monitoring Program.



By: Alvarado

Texas State Board of Pharmacy, Article VIII Proposed Rider

Enhancing and Modernizing the Prescription Monitoring Program

2/27/25

Overview

Amend rider #4 to direct the Texas State Board of Pharmacy to support system enhancements and modernization of the Prescription Monitoring Program.

Required Action

1. On page VIII-XX of the Texas State Board of Pharmacy bill pattern, increase appropriations in Strategy B.1.3, Prescription Monitoring Program, by \$1,300,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$990,000 in fiscal year 2027 from the Opioid Abatement Account No. 5189.
2. On page VIII-XX of the Texas State Board of Pharmacy bill pattern, amend rider #4 to read as follows:
 4. **Prescription Monitoring Program.** Amounts appropriated above in Strategy B.1.3, Prescription Monitoring Program, include \$3,700,750 in fiscal year 2026 and \$3,700,750 in fiscal year 2027 from the General Revenue Funds to implement Narxcare and Statewide Integration. These amounts are exempt from Article VIII, Special Provisions Relating to all Regulatory Agencies, Section 2, Appropriations Limited to Revenue Collections.

Included in amounts appropriated above is \$1,300,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$990,000 in fiscal year 2027 from the Opioid Abatement Account No. 5189 to implement system enhancements related to the Prescription Monitoring Program, including an alert mechanism capable of identifying lapses in treatment for patients prescribed buprenorphine or other medications for the treatment of opioid use disorder, and the presentation of non-fatal overdose events in the patient report provided within the Prescription Monitoring Program.

The Texas State Board of Pharmacy is authorized to contract with the Texas Health Services Authority (THSA) or other health information exchanges established under Section 531 of the Texas Government Code to facilitate the secure transfer of data related to non-fatal drug overdoses into the Prescription Monitoring Program.

By: Bob Hall

**Texas State Board of Pharmacy, Article VIII
Proposed Rider**

Enhancing and Modernizing the Prescription Monitoring Program

2/26/25

Overview

Amend rider #4 to direct the Texas State Board of Pharmacy to support system enhancements and modernization of the Prescription Monitoring Program.

Required Action

1. On page VIII-XX of the Texas State Board of Pharmacy bill pattern, increase appropriations in Strategy B.1.3, Prescription Monitoring Program, by \$1,300,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$990,000 in fiscal year 2027 from the Opioid Abatement Account No. 5189.
2. On page VIII-XX of the Texas State Board of Pharmacy bill pattern, amend rider #4 to read as follows:
 4. **Prescription Monitoring Program.** Amounts appropriated above in Strategy B.1.3, Prescription Monitoring Program, include \$3,700,750 in fiscal year 2026 and \$3,700,750 in fiscal year 2027 from the General Revenue Funds to implement Narxcare and Statewide Integration. These amounts are exempt from Article VIII, Special Provisions Relating to all Regulatory Agencies, Section 2, Appropriations Limited to Revenue Collections.

Included in amounts appropriated above is \$1,300,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$990,000 in fiscal year 2027 from the Opioid Abatement Account No. 5189 to implement system enhancements related to the Prescription Monitoring Program, including an alert mechanism capable of identifying lapses in treatment for patients prescribed buprenorphine or other medications for the treatment of opioid use disorder, and the presentation of non-fatal overdose events in the patient report provided within the Prescription Monitoring Program.

The Texas State Board of Pharmacy is authorized to contract with the Texas Health Services Authority (THSA) or other health information exchanges established under Section 531 of the Texas Government Code to facilitate the secure transfer of data related to non-fatal drug overdoses into the Prescription Monitoring Program.

Zaffarini

Molly Cook

By: Cook

**Public Utility Commission of Texas, Article VIII
Proposed Rider Contingency for
Power Line Study**

Prepared by LBB Staff, 02/18/2025

Overview

Add a rider that directs the Public Utility Commission of Texas to use existing funds to study the costs and benefits of burying distribution power lines in certain metropolitan areas.

Required Action

On page VIII-56 of the bill pattern for the Public Utility Commission of Texas in Senate Bill 1, add the following new rider:

- ____. **Power Line Study.** It is the intent of the Legislature that, out of the funds appropriated above to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, the commission shall study the cost and benefits of burying distribution power lines in Austin, Dallas – Fort Worth, Houston, and San Antonio, and issue a report on the conclusions of the study to the Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Governor no later than December 1, 2026.

1 of 1



By: Hall

Texas Real Estate Commission
Proposed Rider
Reporting on Licensees with Criminal Histories and on Agency Telework Policies

Prepared by LBB Staff, 2/24/2025

Overview

Add a rider requiring the Texas Real Estate Commission to report on licenses issued to individuals with known criminal histories and on office criteria for remote work for agency employees.

Required Action

Add the following rider:

_____. **Reporting on Licensees with Criminal Histories and on Agency Telework Policies.** The Texas Real Estate Commission (TREC) shall provide a report to the Legislative Budget Board and the Office of the Governor detailing the number of licenses issued to individuals with known criminal histories. TREC shall provide a separate report to the Legislative Budget Board and the Office of the Governor detailing the agency's telework policies for its employees. The report shall include eligibility criteria and the percentage of employees permitted to telework. Both reports shall be provided to the Legislative Budget Board and the Office of the Governor no later than September 1, 2026.