

SUBJECT: Revising certain reports under the Texas workers' compensation system

COMMITTEE: Business and Industry — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 7 ayes — C. Turner, Hefner, Crockett, Lambert, Ordaz Perez, Patterson, S. Thompson

0 nays

2 absent — Cain, Shine

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Lee Ann Alexander, American Property and Casualty Insurance Association; Jay Thompson, Association of Fire and Casualty Companies of Texas; Cathy DeWitt, Jobs for Texas; Megan Herring, Texas Association of Business; John Wilkerson, Texas Municipal Police Association; Barbara Salyers, Texas Mutual Insurance Company; Bobby Hillert, Texas Orthopaedic Association; Lisa Kaufman, TMLIRP)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Amy Lee, Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation)

BACKGROUND: Insurance Code sec. 1305.502 requires the workers' compensation research and evaluation group to develop and issue an annual informational report card that identifies and compares the quality, costs, health care provider availability, and other factors of workers' compensation health care networks operating under the workers' compensation system of the state with each other and with medical care provided outside of networks.

Other evaluations, reports, and studies are issued regarding the state workers' compensation system under Insurance Code secs. 1305.501 and 2053.012 and Labor Code sec. 405.0025.

Some have suggested changing the frequency of reports issued by the workers' compensation research and evaluation group and eliminating duplicative efforts.

DIGEST:

HB 1753 would require the workers' compensation research and evaluation group to develop consumer report cards by December 1 of each even-numbered year. The bill would repeal certain provisions requiring other evaluations, reports, and studies regarding the state workers' compensation system.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2021.