

## TIMELINE FOR HOUSE BILL (HB) 7

DATE	HB-7	STATUTORY CITATION	STATUS
August 31, 2005*	Last day that a party may request a State Office of Administrative Hearing (SOAH) appeal of a Texas Workers' Compensation Commission (TWCC) medical dispute decision.	Section 8.013 of HB 7 (p. 363)	Complete
September 1, 2005*	The Act takes effect	Section 8.020 of HB 7 (p. 366)	Complete
September 1, 2005*	TWCC is abolished and the Division of Workers' Compensation at the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) is established.	Section 8.001 of HB7 (pp 356-357)	Complete
September 1, 2005*	SOAH may not accept a request for an appeal of a TWCC medical dispute decision on or after this date. A medical dispute that is not pending for a hearing by SOAH on or before <u>August 31, 2005</u> is subject to the new dispute resolution provisions of this bill and is not subject to a hearing at SOAH.	Section 8.013 of HB 7 (p. 363)	Complete
September 1, 2005*	The state average weekly wage (SAWW) becomes \$540 and remains at this level until September 30, 2006. This provision expires October 1, 2006.	Section 408.047, Labor Code (p. 134)	Complete
September 1, 2005*	The Medical Advisory Committee abolished.	Section 8.012 of HB 7 (pp. 362-363)	Complete
September 1, 2005*	A number of Insurance Code and Labor Code provisions are repealed to conform with HB 7, including provisions related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the former TWCC Commissioner board;</li> <li>• definitions affected by the name change;</li> <li>• acceptance of grant paid by Texas</li> </ul>	Article 7 of HB 7 (pp. 355-356)	Complete

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	Mutual Insurance Company; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• application of Sunset Act; and</li> <li>• discontinued programs such as Field Safety Representative Program, the Hazardous Employer Program, the Approved Professional Source Program, and the Drug Free Workplace Program, the Medical Advisory Committee (MAC), and the Health Care Network Advisory Committee (HNAC).</li> </ul>		
September 1, 2005	Date by which the Commissioner of Insurance shall adopt the first annual research agenda for the Workers' Compensation Research and Evaluation Group of TDI.	Section 405.0026 Labor Code (p. 67) Section 8.001(d) of HB 7	Complete. Research agenda adopted on 2/10/06.
October 1, 2005*	Date by which the Governor shall appoint the Commissioner of Workers' Compensation of the Division of Workers' Compensation	Section 8.001(d) of HB 7 (p. 357)	Complete  9/1/05 Albert Betts appointed as Commissioner of Workers' Compensation
October 1, 2005*	TDI shall provide, in Austin and in each regional field office, suitable office space, personnel, computer support, and other administrative support to the Office of Injured Employee Counsel no later than this date.	Section 8.002(d) of HB 7 (pp. 357-358)	Complete
October 1, 2005	Date by which the division shall compute and publish the interest and discount rate quarterly, using the treasury constant maturity rate for one-year treasury bills issued by the U.S. government, as published by the Federal Reserve Board on the 15 <sup>th</sup> day preceding the first day of the calendar	Section 401.023, Labor Code (p. 43)	Complete. Interest and discount rate for October 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005 was published on September 22, 2005.

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	quarter for which the rate is to be effective, plus 3.5 percent. For this purpose, calendar quarters begin January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1.		
December 1, 2005*	Date by which the Commissioner of Insurance shall adopt rules regarding the certification of workers' compensation networks.	Section 8.014 of HB 7 (p. 363)	Complete Network rules adopted 11/15/05
December 1, 2005*	Date by which the Commissioner of Insurance and the Commissioner of Workers' Compensation shall adopt rules relating to the transfer of TWCC programs to TDI.	Section 8.002(c) of HB 7 (p. 357)	Complete. Determination made that no rules were required for the transfer of programs.
January 1, 2006*	TDI shall accept applications from a workers' compensation network seeking certification under Chapter 1305, Insurance Code.	Section 8.014 of HB 7 (p.363)	TDI began receiving network applications January 2, 2006.
January 1, 2006*	The Commissioner of Workers' Compensation shall adopt rules regarding electronic submission of medical bills by this date.	Section 8.008 of HB 7 (p. 361)	Complete  Rules were adopted July 2006. Electronic medical billing required for insurance carriers and health care providers on or before 1-1-08.
January 1, 2006*	Effective date for the creation of the small employer return-to-work pilot program at the Division of Workers' Compensation at TDI.	Section 8.010 of HB 7 (pp. 361-362)	Complete  Rules adopted 2/2/06. Program become effective 2/22/06.
February 1, 2006*	The Commissioner of Workers' Compensation shall adopt rules regarding changes to Section 408.004 (Required Medical Examinations) and Section 408.0041 (Designated Doctor	Section 8.007 of HB 7 (p. 361)	Complete  Rules adopted July, 2006. Effective for designated doctor and required medical

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	Examinations), Labor Code.		examination requests on or after 1-1-2007.
February 28, 2006*	Except as otherwise provided by the bill, all powers, duties, obligations, rights, contracts, funds unspent appropriations, records, real or personal property, and personnel of TWCC shall be transferred to the Division of Workers' Compensation at the TDI not later than this date.	Section 8.001(b) of HB 7 (p. 357)	Complete
March 1, 2006*	All powers, duties, obligations, rights, contracts, etc. and personnel of TWCC's ombudsman program is transferred to the Office of Injured Employee Counsel not later than this date. An ombudsman transferred to the Office of Injured Employee Counsel shall begin providing services not later than this date.	Section 8.002(e) of HB 7 (p. 358)	Complete
March 31, 2006*	Date by which the LBB may adopt an order under Section 317.005, Government Code, to transfer the appropriations of TWCC to TDI and the Office of Injured Employee Counsel.	Section 8.006 of HB 7 (p. 361)	Transfer of appropriations of TWCC to TDI and the Office of Injured Employee Counsel did not require an order to be adopted by the LBB.
August 1, 2006*	Date by which the Division of Workers' Compensation at TDI and the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services shall report to the legislature not later than this date on their actions to improve the access to and effectiveness of vocational rehabilitation programs for injured workers.	Section 409.012(f), Labor Code (p. 163)	Complete.  Report delivered to the Legislature on 8-3-2006.
October 1, 2006*	On or after this date, the state average weekly wage (SAWW) is equal to 88 percent of the average weekly wage of covered employment as computed by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) under Section 207.002, Labor Code.	Section 408.047, Labor Code (p. 134)  Section 8.009 of HB 7 (p. 361)	Complete 10-1-06

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October 1, 2006*	The Commissioner of Workers' Compensation shall compute the maximum and minimum weekly income benefits for each state fiscal year not later than October 1 <sup>st</sup> of each year.	Sections 408.061-408.062, Labor Code (p. 135)	Complete 10-1-06
October 1, 2006*	The Commissioner of Workers' Compensation shall report to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker and the 79 <sup>th</sup> Legislature on the implementation of changes to the Designated Doctor program (Section 408.1225, Labor Code)	Section 8.011(a) of HB 7 (p. 362)	Complete and sent to the Legislature on 10-4-06.
December 1, 2006*	The Commissioner of Workers' Compensation shall forward legislative recommendations regarding changes to the WC Act to the legislature no later than this date every even-numbered year.	Section 402.066, Labor Code (p. 23)	Pending
December 1, 2006*	The Commissioner of Insurance shall issue the first report to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker and the legislature on the impact of HB 7 on the affordability and availability of workers' compensation insurance for Texas employers. All subsequent reports shall be issued by December 1 <sup>st</sup> of every even-numbered year.	Section 8.011(c) of HB 7 (p. 362)	Pending
December 31, 2006	In its evaluation of networks, TDI shall offer recommendations to the 80 <sup>th</sup> Legislature regarding whether statutory changes are needed to allow an injured worker to receive workers' compensation medical care from PPO providers (i.e., allow a worker to select his or her PPO primary care provider as the worker's treating doctor within a workers' compensation network). HB 7 contained no specific statutory timeline for this legislative report.	Section 1305.105(d), Insurance Code (p. 293)	Pending

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December, 2006	The Division of Workers' Compensation at TDI shall study the issue of required accreditation of interdisciplinary pain rehabilitation programs or interdisciplinary pain rehabilitation treatment facilities that provide services to injured employees and shall report to the legislature regarding any statutory changes that the division considers necessary to require that accreditation. HB 7 contained no specific statutory timeline for this legislative report.	Section 408.032, Labor Code (p. 131)	Pending
June, 2007	The Workers' Compensation Research and Evaluation Group at TDI shall issue the first workers' compensation network report card no more than eighteen months after the date that TDI certifies the first workers' compensation network.	Section 8.015 of HB 7 (pp. 363-364)	Pending
January 1, 2008*	The Commissioner of Insurance may adopt rules, but not before this date, regarding the electronic payment of medical bills by insurance carriers to health care providers upon sufficient evidence that such payments can be made without undue burden to carriers.	Section 408.0251, Labor Code (p. 123)	Pending
October 1, 2008*	The Commissioner of Workers' Compensation shall report to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker and the legislature on the implementation and results of the small employer return-to-work pilot program.	Section 8.011(b) of HB 7 (p. 362)	Pending

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December 1, 2008*	The workers' Compensation Research and Evaluation Group at TDI shall issue the first report to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker and the legislature on the impact of workers' compensation networks on the cost and quality of medical care on this date. All subsequent reports shall be issued by December 1 <sup>st</sup> of every even-numbered year.	Section 8.003 of HB 7 (p. 358) Section 8.011(d) of HB 7 (p. 362)	Pending
September 1, 2009*	Expiration date of the small employer return-to-work program.	Section 413.022, Labor Code (pp. 214-216)	Pending
September 1, 2009*	This is the Sunset date for TDI, the Division of Workers' Compensation at the TDI, and the Office of Injured Employee Counsel.	Section 31.004, Insurance Code (pp.340-341) Section 404.003, Labor Code (p. 51)	Pending

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