

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

S.B. 1572  
By: Carona  
State Affairs  
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As Filed

### **DIGEST AND PURPOSE**

HB 2600, enacted by the 77th Texas Legislature, abolished Texas Workers' Compensation Commission's (TWCC) treatment guidelines and required that newly adopted guidelines be nationally recognized, scientifically valid and outcome-based. As proposed, S.B. 1572 authorizes TWCC to adopt treatment guidelines in the workers' compensation system.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

Rulemaking authority previously granted to the Texas Workers Compensation Commission is modified in SECTION 1 (Section 413.011, Labor Code) of this bill.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Section 413.011(e), Labor Code, to authorize the Texas Workers' Compensation Commission (TWCC) to adopt by rule treatment guidelines and individual treatment protocols, including return-to-work guidelines. Provides that if a nationally recognized treatment protocol or guideline is not available for adoption by TWCC, then TWCC is not prevented from adopting a treatment guideline or protocol as long as it is scientifically valid and outcome-based. Makes a conforming change.

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2003.