

Amend the amendment by Representative Villarreal on page 194 of the **CSHB 1** Prefiled Amendment Packet to add the following after line 28:

Add the following rider in Article VIII, numbered appropriately, following the Article VIII riders concerning the Texas Department of Insurance:

_____. WORKERS COMPENSATION APPEALS FOR FEE AND MEDICAL NECESSITY DISPUTES. (a). Contingent upon enactment of **HB 724**, or similar legislation by the Eightieth Legislature, the Texas Department of Insurance and the Office of Injured Employee Counsel is hereby appropriated all funds necessary out of the General Revenue Dedicated-Texas Department of Insurance Operating Fund No. 036, to cover the cost of appeals of medical disputes handled either through the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) or through the completion of contested case hearings (CCHs) by the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation. (The Texas Department of Insurance estimated costs to be \$1,963,555 in fiscal year 2008 and \$1,633,097 in fiscal year 2009, and is authorized 22.0 full time equivalents in each fiscal year of the 2008-2009 biennium. The Office of Injured Employee Counsel additional estimated costs is \$354,363 for fiscal year 2008 and \$354,363 for fiscal year 2009 and is authorized 9.0 full time equivalents in each fiscal year of the 2008-2009 biennium).