

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 637

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

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Hearing Date: March 30, 2021 8:00 AM

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Brandi Prejean

Legal Representative for Insurance Carriers, Employers, Political Subdivisions and Third Party Administrators in the workers' compensation system.

Austin, TX

The bill confuses line of duty pay in the Local Government Code with workers' compensation benefits in the Labor Code. Line of duty pay and workers' compensation coverage are separate and distinct benefits, derived from different statutes and are funded in different manners. There is no evidence in science or medicine that these specific professions are disproportionately affected by pandemics. Benefits afforded to employees through the workers' compensation system should be equal and predictable, otherwise, insurance companies will stop writing policies in Texas. Further, this bill creates an unfunded mandate on state and local governments already suffering from strained budgets.