

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 1635

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

Section 405.0025 already requires this data to be gathered for all employees in the workers' compensation system. The Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) regularly gathers this data for all employees in the workers' compensation system, inclusive of first responders. Due to political pressure, the DWC already views first responder claims with more scrutiny than other employee's claims. Routinely, the DWC subjects insurance carriers and political subdivisions to audits on denied claims, specific to first responders. Further, the DWC uses its administrative power and its enforcement power to dissuade denials in first responder claims to the detriment of the tax payers funding the local government's workers' compensation budget. The creation of subsection (d) is redundant, unnecessary and serves only a political agenda.