

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD**  
**Austin, Texas**

**FISCAL NOTE, 82ND LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**March 15, 2011**

**TO:** Honorable Rodney Ellis, Chair, Senate Committee on Government Organization

**FROM:** John S O'Brien, Director, Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE: SB651** by Huffman (Relating to the continuation and functions of the office of injured employee counsel under the workers' compensation program.), **As Introduced**

<b>No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.</b>
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The bill would amend the Labor Code relating to the continuation and operation of the Office of Injured Employee Counsel (OIEC). OIEC is subject to the Sunset Act and will be abolished on September 1, 2011, unless continued by the Legislature. The bill would continue OIEC for 6 years and would take effect on September 1, 2011. The bill would also require OIEC to maintain complaint information, and develop and encourage the use of appropriate alternative dispute resolution procedures. The bill would limit OIEC's authority to access claim files for injured employees that OIEC is not directly assisting.

Based on the analysis provided by OIEC and the Sunset Commission, any costs associated with the implementation of the bill could be absorbed within OIEC's existing resources.

**Local Government Impact**

No significant fiscal implication to units of local government is anticipated.

**Source Agencies:** 116 Sunset Advisory Commission, 448 Office of Injured Employee Counsel

**LBB Staff:** JOB, KM, MW, CH