

**STATE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS**  
**HEARINGS ACTIVITY REPORT (HARP)**  
**March 1<sup>st</sup> – August 31<sup>st</sup> 2024**

**INTRODUCTION**

The State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) serves as an independent, neutral forum providing fair and efficient hearings process and the opportunity for alternative dispute resolution proceedings, in accordance with Chapter 2003 of the Texas Government Code. This Hearings Activity Report (HARP) provides detailed information about SOAH's caseload, including SOAH's associated cost of service, during the designated reporting period. HARP is prepared and submitted in accordance with Rider 5 of SOAH's appropriation bill pattern.

**Hearings Activity Report:** By May 1st and November 1st of each fiscal year, SOAH shall submit to the Legislative Budget Board and the Governor a report detailing hearings activity conducted during the prior two fiscal year quarters. The report shall indicate, in a format prescribed by the Legislative Budget Board, for each agency served by method of finance: the projected and actual person hours allocated to the agency's cases and the cost, both direct and indirect, of conducting the hearings. The report shall also indicate, in a format prescribed by the Legislative Budget Board, for each agency served: the projected and actual number of cases received, the number of cases disposed, and the median number of days between the date a case is received by SOAH and the date the case is finally disposed, and any other information requested by the Legislative Budget Board during the reporting period. (H.B. 1, General Appropriations Act, 2024-2025 Biennium, Eighty-eighth Legislature, Regular Session, Article 8.)

**THE CONTENTS OF THE REPORT**

This volume of HARP covers the period March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, through August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

HARP Part I – Cases summarizes information by agency for actual pending cases, cases received, cases disposed, and median days at SOAH. It also includes Fiscal Year 2025 first half projections.

HARP Part II – Hours and Expenses summarizes hours and costs by referring agency within each method of finance. It also contains the projected hours and costs for each agency for the second half of Fiscal Year 2024. These projections are based on amounts included in the Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR) adjusted by the most current information available to SOAH. Please note for simplicity, Groundwater Conservation Districts are listed as agency code 900 and appeals of Appraisal Review Board (ARB) orders are listed as agency code 940.

## **SUMMARY OF ACTIVITY FOR THE CURRENT PERIOD**

### **HARP Part I**

#### *ALR Cases:*

ALR cases received moderately decreased from the prior reporting period to 10,753. Cases disposed moderately decreased from the prior reporting period to 11,073 during this reporting period.

#### *General Docket Cases:*

General docket cases referred slightly increased from prior reporting period to 1,842 received. Cases disposed moderately increased from prior reporting period to 1,877.

### **HARP Part II**

#### *Hourly Cost:*

ALR work was \$149.88 per ALJ billable hour and General Docket was \$159.62. General Revenue (GR) funded cases was at \$154.68 and Interagency Contracts (IAC) was at \$163.30. The rate swing by agency in this reporting period ranged from as low as \$136.80 to as high as \$200.61 per hour. The overall rate for the current period is \$158.25, an increase from the prior reporting period of \$136.50.

The projected GR rate for the first half of Fiscal Year 2025 is \$173.81. The projected IAC rate for the first half of Fiscal Year 2025 is \$165.00. The projected overall rate for the second half of Fiscal Year 2024 is \$170.06.

Fluctuations in hourly rates are directly attributable to the salary and classification mix of ALJs assigned to cases as well as to the overall hours worked on cases. SOAH does not assign ALJs to cases by funding source but by subject matter, by experience and

expertise, and as dictated by the workload. Because the funding source does not dictate the ALJ that works on a case, in any given period, or for any given agency, rebalancing the caseload impacts the allocation of costs and, thus, the hourly rate.

## **HARP PART I - CASES: DEFINITION OF TERMS**

The table in this section lists each agency, identified by name and agency number, served during the reporting period, and provides a summary of the following measured events for those agencies, as applicable:

**NUMBER OF CASES PENDING AT START OF REPORTING PERIOD** - Active cases pending at the beginning of the reporting period that were carried forward from the end of the prior reporting period into the next.

**NUMBER OF CASES RECEIVED** - Only cases initially docketed at SOAH during the reporting period. Therefore, if casework time is shown but no cases were received during the reporting period, this indicates the time worked was on a case initiated in a prior reporting period.

**NUMBER OF CASES DISPOSED** - Includes all matters resolved (*e.g.*, by proposal for decision, final order, settlement, or dismissal) during the reporting period irrespective of when the case was referred to SOAH. If the number of cases disposed exceeds the number of cases received, it indicates that some of the cases disposed during the reporting period were docketed at SOAH in a prior reporting period.

**CUMULATIVE NUMBER OF CASES PENDING AT END OF REPORTING PERIOD** - The number of active cases pending at the close of the reporting period that will be carried forward into the next reporting period.

**MEDIAN DAYS AT SOAH** - Approximates the median time from filing to final disposition that cases were pending on the SOAH docket.

## **HARP PART II - HOURS AND EXPENSES: DEFINITION OF TERMS**

The table in this section lists by agency the total hours and costs, as described below, for the reporting period, sorted by method of finance.

**HOURS** - The total amount of actual case-related time.

**DIRECT SALARIES** - Actual salary cost of all hours related to the respective agency or docket during the reporting period.

**COURT COST** - Total direct court costs (interpreters, court reporters, and transcripts) associated with conducting the hearing and performing other work on a particular case.

**TRAVEL COST** - Total direct travel costs (transportation, lodging, and meals) associated with conducting the hearing and performing other work on a particular case.

**TOTAL DIRECT** - Sum of Total Salaries, Court Cost, and Travel Cost.

**TOTAL INDIRECT** - The costs associated with supporting the hearings activity and allocated to each case on a pro rata basis. These costs include personnel and operating costs for the Clerk's Office, Legal Services, Hearings support staff, and Hearings management. Includes all non-case related ALJ costs and all leave time taken.

**TOTAL ADMIN** - Reflects the total administrative costs allocated to each case on a pro rata basis. These costs include personnel and operating costs for Executive Management, Finance, General Counsel, Human Resources, Information Technology, and Records.

**PROJECTED HOURS** - Projected hours for the related agency during the specified time frame.

**PROJECTED COST** - Projected cost attributable to the related agency during the specified time frame.

# State Office of Administrative Hearings

## Hearings Activity Report (HARP) Part I - Cases

Date Range: 03/01/2024 to 08/31/2024

Agency Number	Agency Name	Number of Cases Pending Start of Reporting Period	Number of Cases Received	Number of Cases Disposed	Cumulative Number of Cases Pending at End of Reporting Period	Median Days at SOAH	Projections		
							Projected Cases Received	Projected Cases Disposed	Projected Median Days at SOAH
302	Office of the Texas Attorney General	177	453	426	204	40	377	351	20
304	Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts	117	151	146	122	91	141	123	92
305	Texas General Land Office	0	1	1	0	63	0	0	31
307	Texas Secretary of State	0	1	1	0	31	0	0	15
312	Texas State Securities Board	7	2	3	6	56	1	2	420
323	Teacher Retirement System of Texas	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
327	Employees Retirement System of Texas	3	8	1	10	101	5	2	125
329	Texas Real Estate Commission - Texas Appraiser Licensing and Certification Board	14	14	17	11	158	16	17	139
362	Texas Lottery Commission	30	92	91	31	13	97	99	13
405	Texas Department of Public Safety	4,643	10,799	11,092	4,350	74	10,795	11,123	76
407	Texas Commission on Law Enforcement	362	65	207	220	158	139	216	316
450	Texas Department of Savings and Mortgage Lending	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
451	Texas Department of Banking	1	0	1	0	72	0	1	144
452	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation	20	51	21	50	54	34	20	76
453	Texas Workers Compensation Commission	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
454	Texas Department of Insurance	1,200	450	35	1,615	266	264	172	159
456	Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners	6	6	9	3	52	6	4	26
458	Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission	12	7	9	10	413	7	9	289
460	Texas Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveying	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
466	Texas Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner	0	1	1	0	62	0	0	31
469	Credit Union Department	1	0	1	0	616	0	1	473
473	Public Utility Commission of Texas	102	87	72	117	41	70	58	72
476	Texas Racing Commission	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
481	Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists	1	0	1	0	383	0	0	191
503	Texas Medical Board	26	51	22	55	115	29	21	69
504	Texas State Board of Dental Examiners	7	8	10	5	41	7	8	37

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							Projected Cases Received	Projected Cases Disposed	Projected Median Days at SOAH
507	Texas Board of Nursing	193	170	150	213	105	160	136	334
508	Texas Board of Chiropractic Examiners	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0
510	Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council	5	6	7	4	57	5	5	88
513	Texas Funeral Service Commission	3	0	1	2	176	1	0	88
514	Texas Optometry Board	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
515	Texas State Board of Pharmacy	7	5	5	7	130	5	5	148
529	Texas Health and Human Services Commission	435	174	194	415	228	183	219	327
530	Department of Family and Protective Services	134	64	87	111	185	103	52	117
533	Executive Council of Physical and Occupational Therapy Examiners	1	1	1	1	244	1	0	122
537	Texas Department of State Health Services	71	35	36	70	202	40	39	144
551	Texas Department of Agriculture	0	2	2	0	42	1	1	76
554	Texas Animal Health Commission	7	0	3	4	215	1	3	282
578	Texas Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners	8	10	4	14	289	7	6	193
582	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	79	52	46	85	304	41	42	208
601	Texas Department of Transportation	7	2	3	6	95	3	2	227
608	Texas Department of Motor Vehicles	54	88	59	83	38	78	66	45
696	Texas Department of Criminal Justice	1	0	1	0	573	0	0	286
701	Texas Education Agency	171	189	192	168	44	184	195	39
710	Texas A & M University System	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
781	Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
900	Groundwater Conservation District	0	6	1	5	29	4	1	65
940	Appraisal Review Board	35	25	27	33	192	38	48	122
955	Bandera County River Authority and Groundwater District	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
965	Post Oak Savannah Groundwater Conservation District	2	0	1	1	444	0	0	222
967	Permian Basin Underground Water Conservation District	2	0	2	0	160	0	1	80

# State Office of Administrative Hearings

## Hearings Activity Report (HARP) Part I - Cases

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Agency Number	Agency Name	Number of Cases Pending Start of Reporting Period	Number of Cases Received	Number of Cases Disposed	Cumulative Number of Cases Pending at End of Reporting Period	Median Days at SOAH	Projections		
							Projected Cases Received	Projected Cases Disposed	Projected Median Days at SOAH
968	Gonzales County Underground Water Conservation District	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Total for 52 Agencies:		7,954	13,079	12,989	8,044	N/A	12,843	13,048	N/A



**State Office of Administrative Hearings**  
**Hearings Activity Report (HARP) Part II - Hours and Expenses**  
**Date Range: 03/01/2024 to 08/31/2024**

										Projections 09/01/2024 - 02/28/2025	
Agy #	Agency Name	Hours	Direct Salaries	Court Cost	Travel Cost	Total Direct	Total Indirect	Total Admin	Case Total	Total Hours	Case Total
<b>General Revenue</b>											
307	Secretary of State	4	\$ 216	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 216	\$ 327	\$ 108	\$ 652	2	\$ 374
312	State Securities Board	8	\$ 455	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 455	\$ 689	\$ 198	\$ 1,341	8	\$ 1,399
323	Teacher Retirement System of Texas	20	\$ 1,309	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,309	\$ 1,983	\$ 516	\$ 3,808	10	\$ 1,764
327	Employees Retirement System of Texas	68	\$ 3,512	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,512	\$ 5,323	\$ 1,734	\$ 10,568	70	\$ 12,123
332	Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	13	\$ 2,303
338	State Pension Review Board	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ -
362	Texas Lottery Commission	161	\$ 8,909	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,909	\$ 13,503	\$ 4,105	\$ 26,518	175	\$ 30,487
405	Department of Public Safety	759	\$ 41,546	\$ 405	\$ -	\$ 41,951	\$ 62,970	\$ 19,359	\$ 124,281	605	\$ 105,178
405	Department of Public Safety - ALR	12,095	\$ 595,616	\$ 5,926	\$ -	\$ 601,542	\$ 902,751	\$ 308,387	\$ 1,812,680	12,191	\$ 2,118,985
407	Texas Commission on Law Enforcement	3,067	\$ 149,457	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 149,457	\$ 226,527	\$ 78,203	\$ 454,187	3,346	\$ 581,514
411	Texas Commission on Fire Protection	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ -
452	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation	388	\$ 21,482	\$ 2,282	\$ -	\$ 23,764	\$ 32,559	\$ 9,881	\$ 66,203	327	\$ 56,793
454	Texas Department of Insurance	636	\$ 34,595	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 34,595	\$ 52,434	\$ 16,204	\$ 103,232	699	\$ 121,477
456	Board of Plumbing Examiners	95	\$ 5,327	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,327	\$ 8,075	\$ 2,422	\$ 15,824	49	\$ 8,560
458	Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission	87	\$ 4,230	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 4,230	\$ 6,411	\$ 2,218	\$ 12,860	112	\$ 19,423
473	Public Utility Commission of Texas	2,846	\$ 158,458	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 158,458	\$ 240,168	\$ 72,561	\$ 471,187	2,575	\$ 447,618
476	Texas Racing Commission	15	\$ 750	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 750	\$ 1,136	\$ 376	\$ 2,262	7	\$ 1,286
481	Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists	1	\$ 32	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 32	\$ 49	\$ 13	\$ 94	1	\$ 130
503	Texas Medical Board	961	\$ 52,124	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 52,124	\$ 79,003	\$ 24,504	\$ 155,631	746	\$ 129,646
504	State Board of Dental Examiners	141	\$ 7,323	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,323	\$ 11,100	\$ 3,602	\$ 22,025	112	\$ 19,519
507	Texas Board of Nursing	1,953	\$ 105,570	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 105,570	\$ 160,008	\$ 49,798	\$ 315,375	1,526	\$ 265,176
508	Texas Board of Chiropractic Examiners	11	\$ 766	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 766	\$ 1,161	\$ 281	\$ 2,207	6	\$ 1,043
510	Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council	232	\$ 12,757	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 12,757	\$ 19,335	\$ 5,916	\$ 38,008	145	\$ 25,159
513	Texas Funeral Service Commission	16	\$ 813	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 813	\$ 1,232	\$ 408	\$ 2,453	20	\$ 3,459
514	Texas Optometry Board	1	\$ 30	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30	\$ 45	\$ 13	\$ 88	2	\$ 287
515	Texas State Board of Pharmacy	140	\$ 7,243	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,243	\$ 10,978	\$ 3,570	\$ 21,790	150	\$ 26,141
520	Board of Examiners of Psychologists	-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-	\$ -
533	Executive Council of Physical and Occupational Therapy Examiners	19	\$ 1,120	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,120	\$ 1,698	\$ 472	\$ 3,290	10	\$ 1,695
551	Department of Agriculture	2	\$ 102	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 102	\$ 154	\$ 51	\$ 307	25	\$ 4,284
578	State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners	47	\$ 2,600	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,600	\$ 3,941	\$ 1,205	\$ 7,746	129	\$ 22,387

**State Office of Administrative Hearings  
Hearings Activity Report (HARP) Part II - Hours and Expenses  
Date Range: 03/01/2024 to 08/31/2024**

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State Office of Administrative Hearings  
Hearings Activity Report (HARP) Part II - Hours and Expenses  
Date Range: 03/01/2024 to 08/31/2024

										Projections 09/01/2024 - 02/28/2025	
Agy #	Agency Name	Hours	Direct Salaries	Court Cost	Travel Cost	Total Direct	Total Indirect	Total Admin	Case Total	Total Hours	Case Total
696	Texas Department of Criminal Justice	1	\$ 32	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 32	\$ 49	\$ 13	\$ 94	1	\$ 83
701	Texas Education Agency	672	\$ 36,080	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,080	\$ 54,686	\$ 17,122	\$ 107,888	817	\$ 134,805
701	Texas Education Agency - IDEA	3,678	\$ 195,517	\$ 21,867	\$ 13,571	\$ 230,954	\$ 296,337	\$ 93,788	\$ 621,080	3,817	\$ 629,805
710	Texas A&M University System	1	\$ 46	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 46	\$ 70	\$ 19	\$ 135	1	\$ 190
900	Groundwater Conservation Districts	614	\$ 34,139	\$ -	\$ 534	\$ 34,673	\$ 51,743	\$ 15,643	\$ 102,058	343	\$ 56,636
940	Appraisal Review Board	282	\$ 16,944	\$ -	\$ 61	\$ 17,005	\$ 25,682	\$ 7,191	\$ 49,877	334	\$ 55,052
Interagency Contracts Total		16,876	\$ 909,572	\$ 23,193	\$ 14,166	\$ 946,930	\$ 1,378,602	\$ 430,293	\$ 2,755,826	17,128	\$ 2,826,145
Agency Total		40,714	\$ 2,130,223	\$ 31,806	\$ 14,166	\$ 2,176,194	\$ 3,228,694	\$ 1,038,104	\$ 6,442,993	40,238	\$ 6,842,969