



## SOAH Hearings Capacity for Referring Agencies

### “The State Office of Administrative Hearings Announces the Agency’s Total Capacity for Fiscal Year 2026”

**September 1, 2025** - As the new state fiscal biennium begins (FY 2026-2027), the Texas Legislature has set the **total hearings capacity** for the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) for the next two years based on the projected number of judge hours required to meet the statewide demand for administrative hearings and mediation services.

By routinely exceeding its performance metrics, SOAH’s team of **58 Administrative Law Judges (ALJs)** manages a large caseload of more than **28,000 cases each year** for over 60 agencies and hundreds of programs across Texas. SOAH’s dockets are routinely booked 3-6 months in advance, and every team member works at or above full capacity to meet caseload demands.

SOAH uses a unique **zero-based budget**. Unlike most state agencies that receive baseline funding for their existing operations plus additional funds for new or expanded programs, SOAH’s funding is **tied directly to the number of case hours worked by judges**. This process is fully transparent, allowing each agency to project its own workload needs. The result is a **highly efficient budget** that ensures SOAH is responsibly managed and maintains a lean operation that closely align with the statewide demand for hearings – with **no excess capacity or wasted funds**.

The agency’s annual budget is about **\$12.7 million** per year based on two main sources of funding:

- 49,121 ALJ hours funded by General Revenue appropriation.
- 29,147 ALJ hours funded by the agencies that use SOAH’s services through Interagency Contracts (IAC).

Under this funding model, the available **hearings capacity for General Revenue** caseloads is limited by the number of ALJ hours funded in the state budget for 2026-27 biennium. By contrast, the **hearings capacity for IAC caseloads** is flexible over time, depending on each agency’s actual usage of SOAH services. SOAH’s **maximum hearings capacity** for both case types is also **capped by the total number of available ALJ positions**.

The following table provides a detailed breakdown of each referring agency’s projected workload at SOAH by Method of Finance (MOF):

MOF	Referring Agency Workloads FY 2026		Total Hours	% Total Workload
GR	307	Secretary of State	80	0.10%
GR	312	State Securities Board	143	0.18%
GR	323	Teacher Retirement System of Texas	126	0.16%
GR	327	Employees Retirement System of Texas	247	0.32%
GR	332	Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs	24	0.03%
GR	338	State Pension Review Board	2	0.00%
GR	362	Texas Lottery Commission	400	0.51%
GR	405	Department of Public Safety	705	0.90%
GR	405	Department of Public Safety-ALR	31358	40.06%
GR	407	Texas Commission on Law Enforcement	2000	2.56%
GR	452	Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation	1083	1.38%
GR	454	Texas Department of Insurance	1511	1.93%
GR	456	Board of Plumbing Examiners	15	0.02%
GR	458	Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission	390	0.50%
GR	469	Credit Union Department	3	0.00%
GR	473	Public Utility Commission of Texas	5100	6.52%
GR	503	Texas Medical Board	1800	2.30%
GR	504	State Board of Dental Examiners	232	0.30%
GR	507	Texas Board of Nursing	2928	3.74%
GR	508	Texas Board of Chiropractic Examiners	47	0.06%
GR	510	Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council	74	0.09%
GR	513	Texas Funeral Service Commission	5	0.01%
GR	514	Texas Optometry Board	100	0.13%
GR	515	Texas State Board of Pharmacy	284	0.36%
GR	533	Executive Council of Physical and Occupational Therapy Examiners	15	0.02%
GR	551	Department of Agriculture	48	0.06%
GR	578	State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners	135	0.17%
GR	601	Texas Department of Transportation	266	0.34%
IAC	302	Attorney General	481	0.61%
IAC	304	Comptroller of Public Accounts	3901	4.98%
IAC	329	Texas Real Estate Commission	510	0.65%
IAC	336	Texas County and District Retirement System	15	0.02%
IAC	450	Department of Savings and Mortgage Lending	63	0.08%
IAC	451	Texas Department of Banking	44	0.06%
IAC	454	Texas Department of Insurance - Workers' Compensation	528	0.67%
IAC	457	Texas State Board of Public Accountancy	51	0.07%
IAC	459	Texas Board of Architectural Examiners	27	0.03%
IAC	460	Texas Board of Professional Engineers	17	0.02%
IAC	466	Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner	107	0.14%
IAC	473	Public Utility Commission of Texas - Waste Water	2356	3.01%
IAC	529	Health and Human Services Commission	2369	3.03%
IAC	530	Department of Family and Protective Services	4056	5.18%
IAC	537	Department of State Health Services	445	0.57%
IAC	554	Texas Animal Health Commission	48	0.06%
IAC	582	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	3273	4.18%
IAC	608	Texas Department of Motor Vehicles	888	1.13%
IAC	644	Texas Juvenile Justice Department	192	0.25%
IAC	701	Texas Education Agency	1977	2.53%
IAC	701	Texas Education Agency - IDEA	7799	9.96%
		Total	78268	100.00%