



CREDIT UNION DEPARTMENT

DATE: March 25, 2021
TO: State Chartered Credit Unions
SUBJECT: Change 59 to Update the Texas Rules for Credit Unions

The attached pages constitute changes to the Texas Rules for Credit Unions. Your book of rules should be updated as follows:

<u>REMOVE PAGES</u>	<u>INSERT</u>	<u>AMENDMENTS OR NEW RULES</u>
Index – pages vii and viii	Index – pages vii and viii	Updated Index
97-1 thru 97-18	97-1 thru 97-18	Readopted Chapter 97

FOR YOUR RECORDS - Please keep this letter of transmittal behind the **Update Tab** of the Rules Section of your binder as a record to show your rules are up to date.

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CHAPTER 97

Subchapter A. General Provisions

§97.101. Meetings.

The time and place of regular and special meetings of the Commission and its committees shall be determined by the applicable chair and posted in accordance with the Open Meetings Act (Government Code, Chapter 551). The minutes of each meeting shall be in writing, shall be posted on the Department's website, and shall be available to any person to examine during the Department's regular office hours.

Source: The provisions of this §97.101 adopted to be effective March 8, 1984, 9 TexReg 1211; amended to be effective July 8, 1994, 19 TexReg 4946; amended to be effective December 9, 2001, 26 TexReg 9777; readopted to be effective February 14, 2005, 30 TexReg 1091; reviewed and amended to be effective July 12, 2009, 34 TexReg 4513; reviewed and readopted to be effective February 15, 2013, 38 TexReg 1378; reviewed and readopted to be effective March 10, 2017, 42 TexReg 1603; reviewed and readopted to be effective March 8, 2021, 46 TexReg 1747.

§97.102. Delegation of Duties.

The Commissioner is authorized to complete all filings necessary to facilitate the rule making powers of the Commission. The Commissioner may draft and sign final adoption orders and other such instruments where delegation is not restricted by statute or rule. Notwithstanding other provisions of this rule, this authority is conveyed only to promote administrative efficiency and to expedite properly approved decisions of the Commission.

Source: The provisions of this §97.102 adopted to be effective May 4, 1995, 20 TexReg 3015; readopted to be effective June 19, 2001, 26 TexReg 4886; readopted to be effective February 14, 2005, 30 TexReg 1091, reviewed and amended to be effective July 12, 2009, 34 TexReg 4513; reviewed and readopted to be effective February 15, 2013, 38 TexReg 1378; reviewed and readopted to be effective March 10, 2017, 42 TexReg 1603; reviewed and readopted to be effective March 8, 2021, 46 TexReg 1747.

§97.103. Recusal or Disqualification of Commission Members.

- (a) A commission member may not vote on or otherwise participate in the deliberation or decision of a matter pending before the commission:
- (1) in which the commission member has a personal or private interest; or
 - (2) which directly affects the credit union of which the commission member is an officer, director, or member.
- (b) The term "personal or private interest" shall be given the meaning as prescribed in Texas Government Code, Section 572.058, and includes a direct personal or financial interest in a credit union or other matter which is the subject of commission action.
- (c) A commission member who is disqualified under subsection (a) of this section shall publicly disclose the fact to the commission in a meeting called and held in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Chapter 551. The disclosure shall be entered in the minutes of the meeting.

(d) A commission member who is recused or disqualified will be counted in determining a quorum.

Source: The provisions of this §97.103 adopted to be effective February 17, 1998, 23 TexReg 1303; readopted to be effective June 19, 2001, 26 TexReg 4886; readopted to be effective February 14, 2005, 30 TexReg 1091; reviewed and readopted to be effective February 12, 2009, 34 TexReg 1452; reviewed and readopted to be effective February 15, 2013, 38 TexReg 1378; reviewed and readopted to be effective March 10, 2017, 42 TexReg 1603; reviewed and readopted to be effective March 8, 2021, 46 TexReg 1747.

§97.105. Frequency of Examination.

The department shall perform an examination of each credit union authorized to do business under the Act at least once during each 12-month period. Annual examination intervals may be extended by the Department to a maximum 18 months, subject to safety and soundness considerations. Intervals between examinations shall not exceed 18 months, unless a longer interval is authorized in writing by the commission. In lieu of conducting an examination required by this rule, the commissioner in the exercise of discretion may accept examinations or reports from other credit union supervisory agencies or insuring organizations.

Source: The provisions of this §97.105 adopted to be effective March 8, 1984, 9 TexReg 1211; amended to be effective December 9, 2001, 26 TexReg 9777; readopted to be effective February 14, 2005, 30 TexReg 1091; reviewed and readopted to be effective February 12, 2009, 34 TexReg 1452; reviewed and readopted to be effective February 15, 2013, 38 TexReg 1378; reviewed and amended to be effective August 3, 2017, 42 TexReg 3744; reviewed and readopted to be effective March 8, 2021, 46 TexReg 1747.

§97.107. Related Entities.

(a) **Definition.** For the purposes of this section, a related entity is defined as:

1. a credit union service organization in which a credit union has a material interest by contracting with, lending to or investing in the organization;
2. a subsidiary or affiliate of a credit union service organization that is wholly owned or controlled by a credit union;
3. an organization engaged primarily in the business of managing a credit union; and
4. third-party contractors providing electronic data processing, electronic fund transfers, or other member services to or on behalf of a credit union.

(b) **General Supervision.** A credit union should perform a thorough analytical assessment to identify, measure, monitor, and establish controls to manage the risks associated with related entities and avoid excessive risk-taking that may threaten the safety and soundness of a credit union. The department may review the risks associated with any related entity and its activities together with other credit union risks using its supervision-by-risk framework. The department shall assess the effectiveness of a credit union's oversight program of related entities, including its strategic planning, third-party selection process, and ongoing monitoring.

(c) **Examination.** A credit union's use of related entities to achieve its strategic goals does not diminish the responsibility of the department to ensure that the activity is conducted in a safe and sound manner and in compliance with applicable law. Although in most situations, these activities should be conducted in the same manner that would be expected if the credit union were conducting

the activities directly, the department shall consider the following factors in determining whether to examine exam related entities:

1. the high risk or unusual nature of the activities conducted by the related entity for the credit union;
2. the significance of the activities conducted by the related entity for the credit union to the credit union's operations and income; and
3. the extent to which the credit union has sufficient systems, controls, and personnel to adequately monitor, measure, and control risks arising from activities conducted by the related entity. The department may examine a related entity, as the commissioner deems necessary to ensure that a credit union is not assuming excessive risk.

(d) Examination Fee. The related entity shall pay a supplemental examination fee as prescribed in §97.113(e) of this title (relating to Supplemental examination fees). A credit union may elect to pay the fee on behalf of the related entity. The supplemental examination fee for a related entity may be waived or reduced if the commissioner determines it is appropriate.

Source: The provisions of this §97.107 adopted to be effective March 14, 2004, 29 TexReg 2639; readopted to be effective February 14, 2005, 30 TexReg 1091, reviewed and amended to be effective July 12, 2009, 34 TexReg 4514; reviewed and readopted to be effective February 15, 2013, 38 TexReg 1378; reviewed and readopted to be effective March 10, 2017, 42 TexReg 1603; reviewed and readopted to be effective March 8, 2021, 46 TexReg 1747.

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Subchapter B. Fees

§97.113. Fees and Charges.

(a) Remittance of fees.

(1) Each credit union authorized to do business under the Act shall remit to the department an annual operating fee. The fee shall be paid in semi-annual installments, billed effective September 1 and March 1 of each year. The final installment may be adjusted as provided by subsection (d) of this section. Installments received after September 30 or March 30 of each year will be subject to a monthly 10% late fee unless waived by the commissioner for good cause.

(2) Credit unions that exit the Texas credit union system on or before August 31 or February 28 of a given year, will not be subject to the semi-annual assessment for the period beginning September 1 or March 1, respectively. Only those credit unions leaving the state credit union system prior to the close of business on those dates avoid paying the semi-annual assessment for the period beginning September 1 or March 1, as applicable.

(b) Calculation of operating fees. The schedule provided in this section shall serve as the basis for calculating operating fees. The base date shall be June 30 of the year in which operating fees are calculated. The asset base may be reduced by the amount of reverse-repurchase balances extant on the June 30 base date. The commissioner is authorized to increase the fee schedule once each year as needed to match revenue with appropriations. An increase greater than 5% shall require prior approval of the commission. The commissioner shall notify the commission of any such adjustment at the first meeting of the commission following the determination of the fee schedule.

For Credit Unions with Total Assets Of:

The Operating Fee is:

Less than \$200,000	\$200
\$200,000 but less than \$1M	\$200 plus .001625 of excess over \$200,000
\$1M but less than \$10M	\$1,500 plus .00034 of excess over \$1M
\$10M but less than \$25M	\$4,560 plus .00014 of excess over \$10M
\$25M but less than \$50M	\$6,660 plus .00017 of excess over \$25M
\$50M but less than \$100M	\$10,910 plus .00019 of excess over \$50M

\$100M but less than \$500M	\$20,410 plus .000080 of excess over \$100M
\$500M but less than \$1,000M	\$52,410 plus .000072 of excess over \$500M
\$1,000M but less than \$2,000M	\$88,410 plus .000069 of excess over \$1,000M
\$2,000M and over	\$157,410 plus .000062 of excess over \$2,000M

(c) Waiver of operating fees. The commissioner is authorized to waive the operating fee for an individual credit union when good cause exists. The commissioner shall document the reason(s) for each waiver of operating fees and report such waiver to the commission at its next meeting.

(d) Adjustment of an installment. The commissioner in the exercise of discretion may, after review and consideration of actual revenues to date and projected revenues for the remainder of the fiscal year, lower the amount of the final installment due from credit unions.

(e) Supplemental examination fees.

(1) If the commissioner or deputy commissioner schedules a special examination in addition to the regular examination, the credit union is subject to a supplemental charge to cover the cost of time and expenses incurred in the examination.

(2) The credit union shall pay a supplemental fee of \$50 for each hour of time expended on the examination. The commissioner may waive the supplemental fee or reduce the fee, individually or collectively, as he deems appropriate. Such waiver or reduction shall be in writing and signed by the commissioner. The department shall fully explain the time and charges for each special examination to the president or designated official in charge of operations of a credit union.

(f) Foreign credit union branches. Credit unions operating branch offices in Texas as authorized by §91.210 of this title (relating to Foreign Credit Unions) shall pay an annual operating fee of \$500 per branch office.

(g) Credit union conversion fee. A credit union organized under the laws of the United States or of another State that converts to a credit union organized under the laws of this State shall remit to the department an annual operating fee within 30 days after the issuance of a charter by the commissioner. The schedule provided in subsection (b) of this section shall serve as the basis for calculating the operating fee. All provisions set forth in subsection (b) of this section shall apply to converting credit unions with the following exceptions:

(1) Should the effective date of the conversion fall on or after October 31, the base date shall be the calendar quarter end immediately preceding the issuance date of a charter by the commissioner.

(2) The amount of the operating fee calculated under this section will be prorated based upon the number of full months remaining until September 1. For example, should the effective date of the conversion be January 31, the converting credit union will remit seven-twelfths of the amount of the operating fee calculated using December 31 base date.

(3) Any fee received more than 30 days after the issuance of a charter will be subject to a monthly 10% late fee unless waived by the commissioner for good cause.

(h) **Mergers/Consolidations.** In the event a credit union in existence as of June 30 merges or consolidates with another credit union and the merger/consolidation is completed on or before August 31, the surviving credit union's asset base, for purposes of calculating the operating fee prescribed in subsection (b) of this section, will be increased by the amount of the merging credit union's total assets as of the June 30 base date.

(i) **Special assessment.** The commission may approve a special assessment to cover material expenditures, such as major facility repairs and improvements and other extraordinary expenses.

(j) **Foreign credit union fee for field of membership expansion.** A foreign credit union applying to expand its field of membership in Texas shall pay a fee of \$200. This fee shall be paid at the time of filing to cover the cost of processing the application. In addition, the applicant shall pay any cost incurred by the department in connection with a hearing conducted at the request of the applicant.

(k) **Foreign credit union examination fees.**

(1) If the commissioner schedules an examination of a foreign credit union, the credit union is subject to supplemental charges to cover the cost of time and expenses incurred in the examination.

(2) The foreign credit union shall pay a fee of \$50 for each hour of time expended by each examiner on the examination. The commissioner may waive the examination fee or reduce the fee as he deems appropriate.

(3) The foreign credit union shall also reimburse the department for actual travel expenses incurred in connection with the examination, including mileage, public transportation, food, and lodging in addition to the fee set forth in paragraph (2) of this subsection. The commissioner may waive this charge at his discretion.

(l) **Contract Services.** In addition, the commissioner may charge, or otherwise cause to be paid by, a credit union, a foreign credit union or related entities the actual cost incurred by the department for an examination or a review of all or part of the operations or activities of a credit union, a foreign credit union or related entity that is performed under a personal services contract entered into between the department and third parties.

Source: The provisions of this §97.113 adopted to be effective November 13, 2000, 25 TexReg 11279; amended to be effective December 9, 2001, 26 TexReg 9777; readopted to be effective February 14, 2005, 30 TexReg 1091; reviewed and amended to be effective July 12, 2009, 34 TexReg 4514; reviewed and readopted to be effective February 15, 2013, 38 TexReg 1378; reviewed and readopted to be effective March 10, 2017, 42 TexReg 1603; reviewed and readopted to be effective March 8, 2021, 46 TexReg 1747.

§97.114. Charges for Public Records.

(a) **Reproduction Charges.** Copies of documents not excepted from disclosure by the Texas Public Information Act (Government Code, Chapter 552) may be obtained upon written request to the department at rates established by the Office of the Attorney General in 1 TAC Sections §§70.1-70.12 (relating to Cost of Copies of Public Information) or other applicable law.

(b) **Request for Information.** The following guidelines apply to requests for records under the Public Information Act (Government Code, Chapter 552).

(1) Request must be in writing and reasonably identify the records requested.

(2) Records access will be by appointment only.

(3) Records access is available only during the regular business hours of the department.

(4) Generally, unless confidential information is involved, review may be by physical access or by duplication, at the requestor's option. Any person, however, whose request would be unduly disruptive to the ongoing business of the office may be denied physical access and will be provided only the option of receiving copies by duplication.

(5) When the safety of any public record is at issue, physical access may be denied, and the records will be provided by duplication as previously described.

(6) Confidential files will not be made available for inspection or for duplication unless required by a court order or Attorney General decision.

(c) Waiver of Fees or Charges. The commissioner may waive or reduce an established charge when, in his or her discretion, a waiver or reduction of the fee is in the public interest because furnishing the information primarily benefits the general public. The fee may also be waived if the cost of processing the collection of a charge will exceed the amount of the charge.

Source: The provisions of this §97.114 adopted to be effective September 1, 1994, 19 TexReg 6557; amended to be effective December 9, 2001, 26 TexReg 9778; readopted to be effective February 14, 2005, 30 TexReg 1091; reviewed and amended to be effective July 12, 2009, 34 TexReg 4515; reviewed and readopted to be effective February 15, 2013, 38 TexReg 1378; reviewed and readopted to be effective March 10, 2017, 42 TexReg 1603; reviewed and readopted to be effective March 8, 2021, 46 TexReg 1747.

§97.115. Reimbursement of Legal Expenses.

(a) The commissioner may seek reimbursement of expenses from an individual credit union for legal fees incurred solely and necessarily because the credit union acted in an unreasonable or egregious manner or acted outside the course and scope of what is permitted by statute or regulation. To ensure that the rights and interest of all parties are protected, this section shall not apply to any adjudicative proceedings in which the legal rights, duties, or privileges of the credit union are being determined by the Department after an opportunity for hearing. This section also does not apply to court proceedings where the individual credit union's legal rights, duties, or privileges are being determined as against the Department.

(b) The credit union has thirty days from the date it receives the assessment to pay in full or to appeal in writing to the Commission.

(c) If a credit union files a written notice of appeal, the Commission shall hear the appeal at its next regularly scheduled meeting. In making its decision, the Commission shall consider whether the credit union acted reasonably under the circumstances or acted within its legal rights.

(d) When possible, the Department will notify a credit union before the Department requests legal assistance which may be charged to a credit union under this section.

Source: The provisions of this §97.115 adopted to be effective November 7, 2010, 29 TexReg 9722; reviewed and readopted to be effective February 15, 2013, 38 TexReg 1378; reviewed and readopted to be effective March 10, 2017, 42 TexReg 1603; reviewed and readopted to be effective March 8, 2021, 46 TexReg 1747.

§97.116. Recovery of Costs for Extraordinary Services Not Related to an Examination.

(a) The commissioner may seek reimbursement from an individual credit union for non examination-related expenses incurred solely and necessarily because the credit union acted in an unreasonable or egregious manner, or acted outside the course and scope of what is permitted by

statute or regulation. Expenses can include personnel costs, transportation costs, meals, lodging, and other incidental expenses. If the commissioner determines that recovery of costs is appropriate, the Department shall provide advance notice to the credit union of its intention to recover the expenses.

(b) In seeking reimbursement, the commissioner shall consider the amount of the costs involved, the nature of the credit union's conduct, the service provided, the financial impact on the credit union, and the impact of the activity on other Department services. The commissioner may reduce the charges and bill the credit union less than the full amount of the costs.

(c) The credit union has thirty days from the date it receives the assessment to pay in full or to appeal in writing to the Commission.

(d) If a credit union files a written notice of appeal, the Commission shall hear the appeal at its next regularly scheduled meeting. In making its decision, the Commission shall consider whether the credit union acted reasonably under the circumstances or acted within its legal rights.

Source: The provisions of this §97.116 adopted to be effective November 7, 2010, 35 TexReg 9723; readopted to be effective February 15, 2013, 38 TexReg 1378; reviewed and readopted to be effective March 10, 2017, 42 TexReg 1603; reviewed and readopted to be effective March 8, 2021, 46 TexReg 1747.

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Subchapter C. Department Operations

§97.200. Employee Training Program.

(a) Components of program. The employee training program for the department consists of one or more of the following components:

(1) Agency-sponsored training to include in-house training sessions and on-the-job training;

(2) Formal training program conducted through the National Credit Union Administration as administrator of the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund.

(3) Seminars and conferences; and

(4) Formal course of study at an accredited institution of higher education.

(b) In order for the cost of training and the time related to that training to be reimbursed by the department, the employee must demonstrate that the course has direct applicability to the employee's job with the department. Attendance at an approved training session described in subsection (a)(1)-(3) will be considered part of the employee's normal work duties and will not require the employee to use accrued leave to attend.

(c) Requests to attend an external training program, seminar or conference pursuant to this section must be approved by the commissioner. Approval of a request is contingent upon availability of funds. If limited funds are available, and more than one employee wishes to participate, a decision regarding who will attend will be based upon the extent of their previous use of funds, the training's merit and its value to the department's operations.

(d) Continuing education courses. Continuing education courses required by licensing or certifying bodies for employees to maintain a professional license or designation will only be reimbursed if such courses relate directly to the employee's job duties with the department and there are funds available.

(e) Tuition reimbursement. The Commissioner must authorize in writing the reimbursement of tuition in accordance with this subsection.

(1) The department may reimburse full-time employees for part or all of tuition and required fees for formal courses of study described in subsection (a)(4) provided the eligibility criteria set forth below are met.

(A) An employee must have completed 24 consecutive months of full-time employment with the department prior to requesting approval to receive tuition reimbursement. However, the 24-month requirement may be waived if the commissioner finds that the employee needs a particular course to fulfill his or her work duties.

(B) An employee must be performing consistently above that normally expected or required and must have achieved an overall performance rating of at least 3.50 on the employee's most recent performance evaluation.

(C) An employee must not have been subject to formal disciplinary action for at least twelve months prior to requesting approval. As used in this section, "disciplinary action" includes a formal written reprimand, suspension without pay, or salary reduction for disciplinary reasons.

(D) The course work must be related to a current or prospective duty assignment within the department.

(E) An employee, before the course begins, must agree in writing to the repayment requirement stated in this subsection.

(F) At the time of the request for approval to receive tuition reimbursement, comparable training must not be scheduled to be offered in-house or through the National Credit Union Administration during the period of time covered by the tuition reimbursement.

(G) The employee's participation must not adversely affect workload or performance.

(H) The employee must complete the course within the semester for which tuition reimbursement was requested.

(I) The employee must receive a passing grade in the course. A passing grade is a grade which will entitle the employee to receive credit for the course from the educational institution offering the course.

(2) Reimbursable costs. Criteria addressing the extent to which cost of tuition may be reimbursed are as follows:

(A) The maximum amount an employee may be reimbursed for an approved tuition reimbursement request is \$250 per semester, not to exceed \$500 per fiscal year. The maximum amount of reimbursement may be increased up to \$400 per semester for good cause shown upon approval by the commissioner.

(B) Reimbursable costs include tuition, related fees, and required textbooks and workbooks. Employees will not be reimbursed for auditing a course.

(C) Costs described in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph will be paid to the employee at the completion of the course upon the employee submitting proof that the course was completed and a passing grade was received.

(3) Repayment. Should an employee separate from department service within 12 months of completion of the course, the employee must reimburse the department for all reimbursable costs expended by the department for that course in accordance with section 656.103 of the Texas Government Code (relating to Restrictions on Certain Training Costs). The commission may adopt an order waiving this requirement upon finding that such action is in the best interest of the department or is warranted because of an extreme personal hardship suffered by the employee.

(4) Prohibition on use of state resources. Employees may not use department equipment, such as computers, calculators or typewriters to complete course work.

Source: The provisions of this §97.200 adopted to be effective February 16, 2000, 25 TexReg 91099; readopted to be effective June 19, 2001, 26 TexReg 4886; readopted to be effective February 14, 2005, 30 TexReg 1091; reviewed and readopted to be effective February 12, 2009, 34 TexReg 1452; reviewed and readopted to be effective February 15, 2013, 38 TexReg 1378; reviewed and amended to be effective July 31, 2016, 41 TexReg 5415; reviewed and readopted to be effective March 10, 2017, 42 TexReg 1603; reviewed and readopted to be effective March 8, 2021, 46 TexReg 1747.

§97.205. Use of Historically Underutilized Businesses.

Pursuant to Chapter 2161 of the Government Code, the Department hereby incorporates by reference the rules of the Comptroller of Public Accounts, 34 TAC §§20.11-20.28 (relating to Historically Underutilized Business Program), or any successor rules, regarding historically underutilized businesses. The Department shall comply, to the extent applicable, with the requirements of these rules when purchasing goods and services that are paid for with State appropriated money.

Source: The provisions of this §97.205 adopted to be effective November 13, 2000, 25 TexReg 11279; readopted to be effective June 22, 2004, 29 TexReg 6423; readopted to be effective February 14, 2005, 30 TexReg 1091; reviewed and amended to be effective July 12, 2009, 34 TexReg 4515; reviewed and readopted to be effective February 15, 2013, 38 TexReg 1378; reviewed and readopted to be effective March 10, 2017, 42 TexReg 1603; reviewed and readopted to be effective March 8, 2021, 46 TexReg 1747.

§97.206. Posting Of Certain Contracts: Enhanced Contracts And Performance Monitoring.

(a) Pursuant to section 2261.253 of the Texas Government Code, the Department will implement the following procedures for contracts for the purchase of goods or services from private vendors:

(1) The Department will list information pertaining to its contract with private vendors on its website. The information will include:

(A) The name of the vendor with whom the contract is made;

(B) A description of the competitive bidding process for the contract, or, if the contract did not involve competitive bidding, a citation and explanation of the legal authority supporting exemption from the competitive bidding process;

(C) A link to a copy of the request for proposal for the contract, if applicable until the contract expires or is completed; and

(D) A link to a copy of the contract with the vendor until the contract expires or is completed.

(2) Enhanced contract or performance monitoring procedure until the contract expires or is completed.

(A) For each contract whose value is greater than \$25,000, the Commissioner and the Department Procurement Director will evaluate whether enhanced contract or performance monitoring is appropriate. Criteria that may be considered include:

(i) Total cost of the contract.

(ii) Risk of loss to the Department under the contract.

(iii) Department resources available for enhanced contract or performance monitoring.

(B) After evaluation of the contract, the Commissioner will immediately report to the Commission Members:

(i) The basis for determination as to whether enhanced contract or performance monitoring is appropriate;

(ii) Include any serious issues or risks identified with the contract, if applicable; and

(iii) If enhanced contract or performance monitoring is appropriate, the Department's plan for carrying out the enhanced contract or performance monitoring.

(C) Commission members may agree to convene a special commission meeting for the purposes of discussion or deciding upon matters related to enhanced contract or performance monitoring of Department contracts. This meeting would be conducted in conformity with the Texas Open Meetings Act.

(b) This rule applies only to contracts for which the request for bids or proposals is made public on or after September 1, 2015; or, if the contract is exempt from competitive bidding, where the contract is entered into on or after September 1, 2015. This rule does not apply to memorandums of understanding, interagency contracts, interlocal agreements or contracts that do not involve a cost to the Department.

Source: The provisions of this §97.206 adopted to be effective November 8, 2015, 40 TexReg 7667; reviewed and readopted to be effective March 10, 2017, 42 TexReg 1603; reviewed and readopted to be effective March 8, 2021, 46 TexReg 1747.

§97.207. Contracts for Professional or Personal Service.

(a) In connection with the authority granted to the commissioner to negotiate, contract or enter into an agreement for professional or personal services under §15.414, Texas Finance Code, the Department hereby incorporates by reference the procurement rules of the Comptroller of Public Accounts, 34 TAC Chapter 20 (relating to Texas Procurement and Support Services), or any successor rules, regarding soliciting and awarding contracts. The Department shall comply, to the extent applicable, with the requirements of these rules when contracting for professional or personal services that are paid for with State appropriated money or paid by credit unions pursuant to 7 TAC §97.113(l) of this title (relating to Fees and Charges).

(b) Any professional or personal service contracts between the Department and entities that receive funds from the State of Texas shall contain the following language regarding the authority of the State Auditor's Office to conduct an audit or investigation in connection with those funds: "Contractor understands that acceptance of funds under this contract acts as acceptance of the authority of the State Auditor's Office, or any successor agency, to conduct an audit or investigation in connection with those funds. Contractor further agrees to cooperate fully with the State Auditor's office or its successor in the conduct of the audit or investigation, including providing all records requested. Contractor will ensure that this clause concerning the authority to audit funds received indirectly by subcontractors through Contractor and the requirements to cooperate is included in any subcontract it awards."

(c) Any professional or personal service contracts between the Department and entities that receive funds from the State of Texas shall contain the following language regarding dispute resolution: "The parties shall attempt to resolve any dispute arising under this contract by using the Department's dispute resolution process." The Department hereby incorporates by reference as its dispute resolution process the rules found in 1 TAC Chapter 68 (relating to Negotiation and Mediation of Certain Contract Disputes), or any successor rules.

Source: The provisions of this §97.207 adopted to be effective March 14, 2004, 29 TexReg 2639; readopted to be effective February 14, 2005, 30 TexReg 1091; reviewed and amended to be effective July 12, 2009, 34 TexReg 4516; reviewed and amended to be effective July 14, 2013, 38 TexReg 4318; reviewed and readopted to be effective March 10, 2017, 42 TexReg 1603; reviewed and readopted to be effective March 8, 2021, 46 TexReg 1747.

Subchapter D. Gifts and Bequests

§97.300. Gifts of Money or Property.

- (a) The department may accept money or property by gift, bequest, devise, or otherwise (“Donation”), only from an organization described in Section 501(c)(3), Internal Revenue Code of 1986, for the purposes of funding or performing any authorized activity (“Donor”).
- (b) All Donations must be accepted in an open meeting by a majority of the commission members present and reported in the minutes of the meeting setting forth the name of the Donor and the purpose of the Donation. Before accepting a Donation, the commission may require the Donor to provide information that the commission deems reasonable and necessary to ensure itself that the Donation is not being conveyed to directly or indirectly influence an official act of the department or the commission.
- (c) The department may not solicit money or property from any person or organization to settle an administrative action or to keep the department from taking formal enforcement action.

Source: The provisions of this §97.300 adopted to be effective March 14, 2004, 29 TexReg 2640, readopted to be effective February 14, 2005, 30 TexReg 1091; reviewed and amended to be effective July 12, 2009, 34 TexReg 4516; reviewed and readopted to be effective February 15, 2013, 38 TexReg 1378; reviewed and readopted to be effective March 10, 2017, 42 TexReg 1603; reviewed and readopted to be effective March 8, 2021, 46 TexReg 1747.

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Subchapter E. Advisory Committees

§97.401. General Requirements.

- (a) **Definition.** For purposes of this rule, the term “advisory committee” means a committee, council, board, task force, or other entity with multiple members established to provide advice and counsel to the commission.
- (b) **Creation.** The commission may establish advisory committees to advise the commission on issues within the jurisdiction of the department.
- (c) **Function.** Unless otherwise provided by law, an advisory committee’s responsibility is limited to those matters about which advice or counsel is sought. An advisory committee will have no authority to make rules or establish department policy.
- (d) **Expiration of advisory committee.** Unless expressly provided in this subchapter or other law, an advisory committee will expire on the fourth anniversary of the date of its creation. The date of creation shall be the effective date of the rule establishing the advisory committee.
- (e) **Membership and Quorum.** The chairman may appoint a maximum of 24 individuals to serve on an advisory committee. A majority of those individuals shall constitute a quorum. Unless otherwise provided by specific statute, the appointments shall be balanced to ensure representation of credit unions regulated by the department and consumers of services provided by those credit unions. Each advisory committee shall include at least one department employee as an ex officio member. This employee shall not be considered a committee member for purposes of establishing the maximum number of members or for purposes of determining a quorum.
- (f) **Term of members.** Unless expressly provided in this subchapter or other law, each member of an agency advisory committee will serve a term of four years. The terms may be staggered. Members' terms will expire at the end of four years or upon the termination of the advisory committee, whichever is earlier. Members may be reappointed. Members serve at the will of the chairman and may be removed at any time by the chairman.
- (g) **Presiding officer.** The presiding officer of each advisory committee shall be selected by the members of the advisory committee from its membership. The chairman may make a recommendation to the advisory committee regarding the presiding officer.
- (h) **Meetings.** Meetings shall be subject to the requirements of Chapter 551 of the Government Code. Each committee shall meet at least annually, but may meet as often as necessary. The department ex officio member of each advisory committee shall work with the presiding officer to schedule advisory committee meetings and provide adequate notice to department staff and to other members.
- (i) **Reports.** On or before October 1 of each year, each advisory committee shall submit a report to the commission. Upon receipt of the report, the commission shall evaluate the advisory committee's work, usefulness, and costs related to the committee's existence, including the cost of department staff time spent in support of the committee's activities. Each report shall include the following:
- (1) a summary or minutes of meetings conducted during the previous fiscal year (September 1-August 31);
 - (2) a summary of recommendations from the advisory committee; and
 - (3) other information determined by the advisory committee or the chairman to be appropriate and useful.
- (j) **Expenses.** Members of each advisory committee will serve without compensation or reimbursement for travel or other out-of-pocket expenses.

(k) Rules. For each advisory committee appointed, the commission shall adopt rules that address the purpose of the advisory committee and membership qualifications, including experience requirements, geographic representation, and training requirements. Such rules may also address the terms of service, operating procedures, and other standards to ensure the effectiveness of an advisory committee appointed under this subchapter.

Source: The provisions of this §97.401 adopted to be effective March 14, 2010, 35 TexReg 1980; reviewed and readopted to be effective February 15, 2013, 38 TexReg 1378; reviewed and readopted to be effective March 10, 2017, 42 TexReg 1603; reviewed and readopted to be effective March 8, 2021, 46 TexReg 1747.

Subchapter F. Rulemaking

§97.500. Petitions to Initiate Rulemaking Proceedings.

(a) Petitions to initiate rulemaking proceeding pursuant to Government Code, §2001.021, must be submitted to the Department in writing. A petition must include:

(1) a brief explanation of the proposed rule;

(2) the full text of the proposed rule, and, if the petition is to amend an existing rule, the text of the rule that clearly identifies any words to be added or deleted from the existing text by underlining new language and striking through language to be deleted; and

(3) a concise explanation of the legal authority to adopt the proposed rule, including a specific reference to the particular statute or other authority that authorizes it.

(b) When the Department receives a rulemaking petition, the Department shall review it for compliance with the requirements of subsection (a) of this section. If the petition is determined to comply, the Department shall notify the applicant that the petition has been accepted for filing and will be processed in accordance with Government Code, §2001.021(c). If it is determined the petition does not comply with subsection (a), the Department shall notify the applicant in writing of all deficiencies found and give the petitioner an opportunity to cure them by filing an amended petition. If no amended petition curing the deficiencies is filed with the Department by 5:00 p.m. on the 15th calendar day following the date that the Department mailed a notice of deficiencies to the petitioner, the petition shall be deemed denied for the reasons stated in the deficiency notice without the necessity of further action.

(c) If the petition is accepted for filing, within 60 days of the date that a petition is accepted for filing, the Department must either deny the petition for reasons stated in writing or initiate a rulemaking proceeding.

Source: The provisions of this §97.500 adopted to be effective August 3, 2017, 42 TexReg 3744; reviewed and readopted to be effective March 8, 2021, 46 TexReg 1747.

§97.501. Hearing on Proposed Rules.

(a) The Department shall grant an opportunity for a public hearing before adoption of any substantive rule as required by Government Code, §2001.029(b), or other applicable statute.

(b) The hearing may be held by the commissioner or by any other person designated by the commissioner. In the exercise of discretion, the commissioner may impose reasonable time limits on presentation of evidence and argument, determine the order of the presentations, and conduct the hearing in a manner suitable to the particular proceeding. Public hearings on proposed rules are neither contested cases nor full legal adversary proceedings. Ex parte prohibitions do not apply.

Source: The provisions of this §97.501 adopted to be effective August 3, 2017, 42 TexReg 3744; reviewed and readopted to be effective March 8, 2021, 46 TexReg 1747.

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