

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS  
TDHCA Governing Board Approved Draft of  
10 TAC Chapter 1, Administration, Subchapter A, General Policies and Procedures, §1.13, Contested Case  
Hearing Procedures

**Disclaimer**

Attached is a proposed four-year rule review and proposed readoption for 10 TAC Chapter 1, Administration, Subchapter A, General Policies and Procedures, §1.13, Contested Case Hearing Procedures. This four-year review was approved by the TDHCA Governing Board on January 15, 2026. This document, including its preamble, is expected to be published in the February 6, 2026, edition of the *Texas Register* and that published version will constitute the official version for purposes of public comment and can be found at the following link: <https://www.sos.texas.gov/texreg/index.shtml>.

In compliance with §2001.023, Texas Government Code, a summary of the proposed action follows:

The Department last performed a Four-Year rule review on 10 TAC, §1.13, Contested Case Hearing Procedures in 2022. Therefore, under Tex. Gov't Code §2001.039, which requires that state agencies review a rule every four years to assess whether the reasons for initially adopting the rule continue to exist, the rule is due to be evaluated in 2026. Staff has determined that there is a continuing need for this rule to exist and that no revisions are warranted. The Secretary of State requires that even when no revisions are proposed, the rule be released for a public comment period. Therefore, the rule will be made available for public comment from February 6, 2026, to March 8, 2026, and returned to the Board for final approval.

Note that while the submission to the *Texas Register* does not require the text of the rule to be included in the submission or publication, staff has included the text of the rule for the public comment.

**Public Comment**

**Public Comment Period:** Start: 8:00 a.m. Austin local time on February 6, 2026  
End: 5:00 p.m. Austin local time on March 8, 2026

Comments received after 5:00 p.m. Austin local time on March 8, 2026, will not be accepted. Written comments may be submitted electronically within the designated public comment period to:

[brooke.boston@tdhca.state.tx.us](mailto:brooke.boston@tdhca.state.tx.us).

Those making public comment are encouraged to reference the specific draft rule, policy, or plan related to their comment as well as a specific reference or cite associated with each comment. Please be aware that all comments submitted to the TDHCA will be considered public information.

**TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

Street Address: 221 East 11th Street, Austin, TX 78701

Mailing Address: PO Box 13941, Austin, TX 78711-3941

Main Number: 512-475-3800 Toll Free: 1-800-525-0657

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**DEPARTAMENTO DE VIVIENDA Y ASUNTOS COMUNITARIOS DE TEXAS**

Borrador aprobado por la Junta Directiva del TDHCA respecto a la sección [§] 1.13 [“Procedimientos para audiencias de casos impugnados”] del subcapítulo A [“Políticas y procedimientos generales”] del capítulo 1 [“Administración”] del título 10 del Código Administrativo de Texas (TAC)

**Descargo de responsabilidad**

Se adjunta una propuesta de revisión de reglas cada cuatro años y una nueva adopción propuesta respecto a la sección [§] 1.13 [“Procedimientos para audiencias de casos impugnados”] del subcapítulo A [“Políticas y procedimientos generales”] del capítulo 1 [“Administración”] del título 10 del Código Administrativo de Texas (TAC). Esta revisión cada cuatro años recibió aprobación por parte de la Junta Directiva del Departamento de Vivienda y Asuntos Comunitarios de Texas (TDHCA) el 15 de enero de 2026. Se espera que este documento, incluyendo su preámbulo, se publique en la edición del *Texas Register* del 6 de febrero de 2026. Esa versión publicada constituirá la versión oficial para fines de comentarios públicos y se puede encontrar en el siguiente enlace: <https://www.sos.texas.gov/texreg/index.shtml>.

De conformidad con la sección [§] 2001.023 del Código de Gobierno de Texas, se incluye a continuación un resumen de la acción propuesta:

En 2022, el Departamento efectuó por última vez una revisión de reglas cada cuatro años respecto a la sección [§] 1.13 [“Procedimientos para audiencias de casos impugnados”] del título 10 del Código Administrativo de Texas (TAC). Por lo tanto, en virtud de la sección [§] 2001.039 del Código de Gobierno de Texas, que exige que las agencias estatales revisen una regla cada cuatro años para evaluar si continúan existiendo las razones para adoptarla inicialmente, la evaluación de esta regla está prevista para 2026. El personal ha determinado que existe una necesidad continua de la existencia de esta regla y que no se justifican modificaciones en la actualidad. La Secretaría de Estado exige que la regla se publique para un período de comentarios del público, incluso cuando no se propongan modificaciones. Por lo tanto, la regla estará disponible para comentarios del público desde el 6 de febrero de 2026 hasta el 8 de marzo de 2026, y se remitirá a la Junta para su aprobación definitiva.

Tenga en cuenta que, si bien la presentación al *Texas Register* no exige que el texto de la regla se incluya en la presentación o publicación, el personal ha incluido el texto de la regla para los comentarios del público.

**Comentarios del público**

**Periodo de comentarios del público:** Inicio: 8:00 a. m., hora local de Austin, del 6 de febrero de 2026

Finalización: 5:00 p. m., hora local de Austin, del 8 de marzo de 2026

No se aceptarán los comentarios que se reciban después de las 5:00 p. m., hora local de Austin, del 8 de marzo de 2026. Los comentarios por escrito pueden enviarse de manera electrónica dentro del período designado de comentarios del público a [brooke.boston@tdhca.state.tx.us](mailto:brooke.boston@tdhca.state.tx.us).

Se anima a quienes formulen comentarios públicos a que hagan referencia al borrador de la regla, política o plan específico relacionado con su comentario, así como una referencia o cita específica asociada a cada comentario. Tenga en cuenta que todos los comentarios enviados al TDHCA se considerarán información pública.

**DEPARTAMENTO DE VIVIENDA Y ASUNTOS COMUNITARIOS DE TEXAS**

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**Attachment 1: Notice of Proposed Rule Review for 10 TAC Chapter 1, Administration, Subchapter A, General Policies and Procedures, §1.13, Contested Case Hearing Procedures**

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (the Department) files this notice of rule review for 10 TAC Chapter 1, Administration, Subchapter A, General Policies and Procedures, §1.13, Contested Case Hearing Procedures. The purpose of the proposed action is to conduct a rule review in accordance with Tex. Gov't Code §2001.039, which requires a state agency to review its rules every four years.

At this time, the Department has determined that there continues to be a need for this rule, which is to provide procedures for contested case hearings. The Department has also determined that no changes to this rule as currently in effect are necessary. This rule proposed for readoption will be noted in the Texas Register's Review of Agency Rules section without publication of the text.

**REQUEST FOR PUBLIC COMMENT.** All comments or questions in response to this notice of rule review may be submitted in writing from February 6, 2026, through March 8, 2026. Written comments may be submitted to Brooke Boston, Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, P.O. Box 13941, Austin, Texas 78711-3941, or by email to [bboston@tdhca.state.tx.us](mailto:bboston@tdhca.state.tx.us). ALL COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5:00 p.m. Austin local time, March 8, 2026.

**Attachment 2: Text of Rule as Currently in Effect for 10 TAC §1.13, Contested Case Hearing Procedures**

(a) Purpose. The purpose of this section is to provide procedures for contested case hearings. This section does not apply to matters such as appeals to the Board of staff decisions or waivers, and this section does not in itself create any right to a contested case hearing, but merely provides the process to be used for contested case hearings that are otherwise expressly provided for by law or rule.

(b) SOAH Designation. The Governing Board (the Board) of the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (the Department) designates the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH) to hold all contested case hearings on the Board's behalf.

(c) Initiation of Hearing.

(1) Upon request from the Board or upon receipt of a pleading or other document that is intended to initiate a contested case proceeding, the Department shall determine if a contested case hearing is indicated under the relevant statutory provisions and rules. If so, staff will mark the file as a pending proceeding and refer the matter to SOAH for hearing generally within 45 calendar days, or such other lesser time as an applicable state or federal statute, rule, or regulation may require. The Department will notify the opposing party of any delay.

(2) SOAH shall acquire jurisdiction over a case when the Department completes and files a Request to Docket Case form or other form acceptable to SOAH, together with the notice of report to the Board required under Tex. Gov't. Code §2306.043 or other pertinent documents giving rise to the case. Once SOAH acquires jurisdiction, all subsequent documents created, sent, or received in connection with the proceeding that SOAH requires to be filed with it are to be filed with SOAH, with appropriate service upon the opposing party in accordance with this section and the rules of SOAH.

(3) Except upon a showing of good cause or as an applicable statute or federal regulation may require, all contested case hearings in which the Department is a party shall be held at the location so determined by SOAH.

(4) Nothing in this subchapter shall in any way limit, alter, or abridge the ability of the Department to enter into mediation or alternative dispute resolution at any time prior to or after the holding of the administrative hearing but prior to the adoption by the Board of a final order.

(d) Service of Notice of Hearing, Pleadings and Other Documents on Parties.

(1) Service of a notice of hearing or of pleadings or other documents shall be made electronically using the EFileTexas system (found at [efiletexas.gov](http://efiletexas.gov)). If EFileTexas is not available to a party, hand delivery, courier-receipted delivery, regular first class mail or certified mail to the party's last known address as shown on the Department's records, in accordance with §1.22 of this Title (relating to Providing Contact Information to the Department) shall be used.

(2) Service of pleadings and other documents shall be made in any manner provided for in SOAH rules.

(e) Proposal for Decision.

(1) After the conclusion of a hearing, the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) shall prepare and serve on the parties a proposal for decision that includes the ALJ's findings of fact and conclusions of law, as modified by the ALJ's addressing of any exceptions and replies to exceptions timely filed with the ALJ in accordance with Tex. Gov't. Code §2001.062 and SOAH rules. The Executive Director shall place the proposal for decision and a proposed final order on the Board's agenda for discussion and possible action at a subsequent meeting of the Board.

(2) At a meeting of the Board where the proposed final order may be adopted, parties may provide testimony based on the record only, for changes to the proposal for decision or the proposed final order. No new evidence shall be submitted at the Board meeting. The Board may, on its own motion, remand to SOAH for any additional fact finding it determines is necessary, or, the Board may change a finding of fact or conclusion of law made by the ALJ, but only for reasons stated in Tex. Gov't. Code §2001.058(e). The Board may adopt a final order if it finds that the findings of fact and conclusions of law are supported by the evidence. Motions for rehearing may be filed and served in accordance with the Tex. Gov't. Code Chapter 2001 and the rules of SOAH.

(f) Disposition of Contested Cases on a Default Basis.

(1) In contested cases where the party not bearing the burden of proof at the hearing fails to appear, the ALJ may issue an order finding that adequate notice has been given, deeming factual allegations in the notice of hearing admitted, if appropriate, conditionally dismissing the case from the SOAH docket, and conditionally remanding

the case to TDHCA for disposition on a default basis. Pursuant to SOAH rules, a party has 15 calendar days after the issuance of a conditional order of dismissal and remand to file with SOAH a motion to set aside the order of dismissal and remand. On the sixteenth day after issuance, if no motion to set aside has been timely filed or if such a motion to set aside is not granted within the time limits provided for in SOAH's rules, the conditional order of dismissal and remand becomes final.

(2) When the order of dismissal and remand is final, the Executive Director shall prepare a proposed order for the Board's action containing findings of fact, as set forth in the notice of hearing, conclusions of law, and granting the relief requested by staff. The matter shall be placed on the Board's agenda for discussion and possible action at a subsequent meeting. Although public testimony is allowed, argument and evidence on the merits will not be considered at the Board meeting. Motions for rehearing shall be filed and served in accordance with Tex. Gov't. Code Chapter 2001 and the rules of SOAH.