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Update from the State Capitol

The 85th legislative session began Jan. 10 and TETAF staff have been busy at the Capitol advocating on behalf of the trauma and emergency healthcare system.

As of Feb. 6, more than 1500 House bills and almost 750 Senate bills had been filed. The deadline to file legislation is March 10. Of note, 4 bills ([HB 67](#), [HB 275](#), [SB 90](#), [SB 661](#)) have been filed to eliminate the Driver Responsibility Program without providing a replacement sources of funds. In addition, Senator Kirk Watson (D-Austin) has filed [SB 266](#), which would cut the fees associated with the Driver Responsibility Program in half, but allocate 100% of the funds to the trauma system. Several other bills have been filed to update or alter the program in some way.

Rep. Sarah Davis (R-Houston) has filed [HB 1148](#), calling for the creation of eight administrative hubs to provide administrative functions for the RACs. It also sets the groundwork for the creation of a 25-year written plan for coordinating emergency medical services throughout the state. TETAF is working with Rep. Davis to advocate for all 22 RACs and share the opinions expressed on this bill, both positive and negative.

The Lieutenant Governor has officially named Senate Committees and the Senate Appropriations Committee has been meeting regularly to begin work on the state budget.

Dr. Jeff Beeson, DO, traveled to Austin on Jan. 31 to testify to the needs of the state trauma and emergency healthcare system. He highlighted the overall need for continued funds for a growing state population, focusing on the EMS and Trauma Care Tobacco Endowment Fund 5046 and the Designated Trauma Facility and EMS Account 5111. Dr. Beeson also detailed the important work of the RACs, stressing the need for a specific appropriation to continue services and cover the growing responsibilities placed upon them.

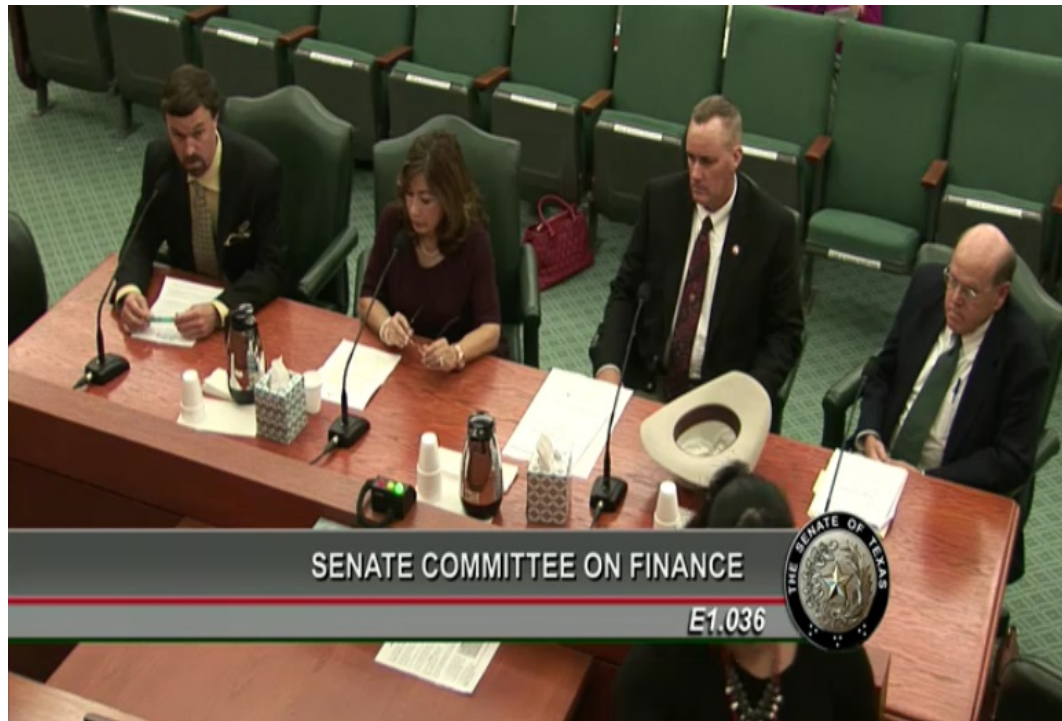
Over the last several budget cycles, the Department of State Health Services has allocated general revenue (GR) dollars to try and maintain funding lost from the tobacco account (5046). These funds are included in the current Senate budget proposal at \$1.4 million per year. However, even with the DSHS GR funds being made available, funding to RACs and EMS will be cut by approximately \$1.4 million per year if no action is taken. The initial Senate budget also recommends more than \$165 million per year in appropriations from Account 5111. The legislature must balance the various needs funded by this account and ensure that hospitals, EMS and RACs remain the focus of this funding.

There will be numerous opportunities for stakeholders to testify at future hearings, once subcommittees are named. For now, TETAF encourages all stakeholders to reach out to their [State Senator](#), especially those on the [Finance Committee](#), to encourage them to fully fund the needs of the trauma and emergency healthcare system. Calls and emails from constituents are crucial to impacting the budget process.

[House committees](#) were named on Feb. 9. Of note, Rep. John Zerwas, MD (R-Richmond) will serve as Chair of the Appropriations Committee and Rep. Oscar Longoria (D-Mission) will serve as Vice Chair. Both are familiar with the needs of the trauma system. In fact, Rep. Longoria last session sponsored the rider to provide additional funding to the RACs. Rep. Four Price (R-Amarillo) will serve as Chair of the House Public Health Committee and Rep. J.D. Sheffield, MD (R-Gatesville) will serve as Vice Chair. Both Rep. Price and Rep. Sheffield are also very familiar with the needs of the trauma system, having served last session on the Appropriations Health & Human Services subcommittee.

Be on the lookout for increased updates from TETAF as the committees now begin meeting to consider bills filed. TETAF provides a [VoterVoice](#) advocacy tool online and encourages all stakeholders to use that resource to contact their local lawmakers.

To learn more about the TETAF legislative workgroup, or to get involved at the Capitol, contact [Courtney DeBower](#).



Join us for Trauma & Emergency Healthcare Day at the Capitol

TETAF invites all emergency healthcare professionals, stakeholders, advocates and survivors to join us in Austin on Feb. 21 for the 2017 Trauma & Emergency Healthcare Day at the Capitol.

After a morning briefing, attendees will walk to the Capitol to meet with lawmakers and share firsthand

both the successes and the needs of the trauma and emergency healthcare system. This is a great opportunity to educate lawmakers and advocate for the system. No prior legislative experience is necessary. Attendees will be provided talking points, handouts and guidance on how to hold a successful meeting with lawmakers and staff.

[Registration](#) and an [agenda](#) are now available online.

Attendees are encouraged to call their local lawmakers and schedule a meeting for the afternoon of Feb. 21. A list of lawmakers broken down by RAC and other resources are available on the [TETAF website](#).

TETAF, GETAC to Meet in Austin

The next TETAF General Meeting will take place Feb. 21 at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Austin.

TETAF General Meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 21

5:30 PM

Wyndham Garden Hotel

Lake Austin Room

3401 South Interstate 35

Austin, TX

No RSVP is required and all are welcome to attend. Light refreshments will be served. An agenda will be posted online prior to the meeting.

The GETAC quarterly meetings take place Feb. 22-24 at the Wyndham. More information and a schedule of committee meetings is available [online](#).

Save-the-Date: TETAF Hospital Data Management Course

The 2017 TETAF Hospital Data Management Course will take place April 10-11 at CHRISTUS Southeast Texas St. Elizabeth in Beaumont.

TETAF offers this course annually, designed to improve the skill sets of the data entry specialist specific to data input, data abstraction and statistical reporting, which are used to improve the state's emergency care system.

Registration will be open later this month on the [TETAF website](#).

Stop the Bleed Campaign: BCon Course Available, Resolution Filed

As part of TETAF's commitment to the Stop the Bleed campaign, we continue to partner with trauma professionals to offer BCon (bleeding control for the injured) courses throughout the year. This course has been developed for direct training for immediate responders (lay personnel) and professional first responders in external hemorrhage control in response to a call from the Hartford Consensus for direct training.

[Registration](#) is currently open for the Feb. 22 course, taking place during the quarterly GETAC meetings:

[Wednesday, Feb. 22](#)

10:00 am (please note time change)

Wyndham Garden Hotel

Lady Bird Lake Ballroom

3401 South Interstate 35

Austin, TX

Contact [Courtney DeBower](#) with any questions.

In addition, Rep. Trent Ashby (R-Lufkin) has filed a resolution ([HCR 61](#)) recognizing the Stop the Bleed campaign. TETAF will work with Rep. Ashby to continue to offer this important training to lawmakers and staff at the Capitol.

Texas Perinatal Services Update

The TETAF Perinatal Services Program is underway, having conducted several surveys and continuing to tweak the process to provide facilities with the very best service available.

Prior to the survey, facilities will receive a Pre-Survey Questionnaire (PSQ). The PSQ is an information gathering tool to provide the surveyors with advance knowledge of the program. All programs are unique and it is helpful for the surveyors to understand how individual programs works in order to plan

for the site survey.

If your facility is not able to answer a question in the PSQ, please share what you can and select N/A if needed. If TETAF requires additional information to address the rule criteria, a surveyor will ask for it on site. The PSQ is confidential and is not shared with anyone other than the facility's surveyors and the TETAF survey coordinators.

The TETAF Perinatal Services Program is always available to answer your questions or address your concerns. Contact [Brenda Putz](#) or [Kathy Clayton](#) with any questions at 512/524-2892.

TETAF encourages all NICU facilities to utilize the following resources:

- TETAF Website - [NICU Resources Page](#)
- [TX NICU Coordinators Forum](#)
- TETAF Perinatal Distribution List - [Sign Up Here](#)

Staff from the Texas Perinatal Services Program are also available to attend Regional Advisory Council/Perinatal Care Region meetings to provide more information on the survey process and answer any questions. Please contact [Brenda Putz](#) to schedule an appointment.



Texas Perinatal Services

EDUCATION : INFORMATION : SURVEYS

A Program of the Texas EMS Trauma & Acute Care Foundation

State EMS Rules Adopted, Become Law Feb. 12

The adopted EMS rules were posted in the Feb. 3 issue of the *Texas Register*. They will become law on Feb. 12, 2017. The draft rules were shared with stakeholders and updated extensively throughout the process. The GETAC EMS Committee also traveled the state to ensure that all stakeholders were given the opportunity to provide input.

The final rule can be found [online](#).

ICYMI: FY 2017 Uncompensated Trauma Care Application Deadline Extended, Reporting Request

The DSHS FY 2017 Uncompensated Trauma Care (UCC) application deadline has been extended until Feb. 28, 2017. An updated application is available [online](#).

In regard to the reporting in the last quarter of Calendar Year (CY) 2015, DSHS is also asking facilities to convert one of the ICD-10 codes to a qualifying ICD-9 codes that meets the inclusion criteria, if possible. If your facility cannot complete this request, please contact the Office of EMS/Trauma Systems Coordination and direct your questions and/or concerns to:

Elizabeth Stevenson, RN

Designation Program Manager – Neonatal, Stroke, and Trauma

Phone: (512) 834-6794

Email: elizabeth.stevenson@dshs.state.tx.us

OR

Indra Hernandez

Contracts Manager

Phone: (512) 834-6669

Email: indra.hernandez@dshs.state.tx.us

TETAF Calendar

A full list of educational opportunities and upcoming meetings can be found on the [TETAF website](#).

Feb. 21 – Trauma and Emergency Healthcare Day at the Capitol (Austin)

Feb. 21 – TETAF General Meeting (Austin)

Feb. 21 – Texas Trauma Coordinator’s Forum (Austin)

Feb. 22-24 – Governor’s EMS and Trauma Advisory Council (Austin)

** Please submit any additional educational opportunities to [Courtney DeBower](#).*



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