

HB 3588

Summary of Selected Provisions

HB 3588 passed during the recently completed legislative session. The 300-page bill primarily focuses on state transportation issues. However, it also includes a significant funding mechanism for trauma care and emergency medical services. Those bill sections are attached and summarized below.

Driver responsibility program

The bill creates a driver responsibility program in the state. The program—

- Assigns “points” to drivers for traffic related offenses;
- Assesses a “surcharge” to drivers licenses based upon those points; for most offenses the surcharge will be \$100 and up; and
- Assesses a surcharge for DWI offenses of \$1,000 to \$2,000.

Trauma facilities and emergency medical services

The bill directs that 49.5% of funds collected from the driver responsibility program are to be deposited in a trauma facility and emergency medical services account to be used accordingly—

- 96% for uncompensated care provided at designated trauma facilities or undesignated facilities in active pursuit of designation, and for innovative projects;
- 2% for operating expenses, training, vehicles and communications systems for emergency medical services, with funding distributed locally by RACs;
- 1% for the 22 RACs; and
- 1% for the Texas Department of Health.

The Commissioner of Health distributes funding with the advice of Regional Advisory Council (RAC) chairpersons.

Other provisions

- The bill also creates a \$30 court cost on certain offenses with 2/3 of the funds collected deposited to the state general fund and 1/3 deposited to the trauma/emergency medical services account.
- The bill also has permissive language allowing a RAC that includes a county of 3.3 million to enter into an agreement with a regional council of governments to perform its duties under the act.