Texas Hospital Association

Texas Hospitals Support House Bill 2048 / Senate Bill 918

Rep. John Zerwas, M.D.
(R-Richmond)

Sen. Joan Huffman
(R-Houston)

Texas hospitals support **House Bill 2048/Senate Bill 918** to eliminate the Driver Responsibility Program while maintaining critical funding for Texas' designated trauma hospitals.

HB 2048/SB 918, by Rep. John Zerwas and Sen. Joan Huffman, eliminate the Driver Responsibility Program, the current primary source of revenue for Account 5111, the state's Designated Trauma Facilities & Emergency Medical Services Account. Account 5111 provides funding for Texas' trauma hospitals to partially offset some of their unreimbursed costs associated with providing trauma care to uninsured and underinsured Texans.

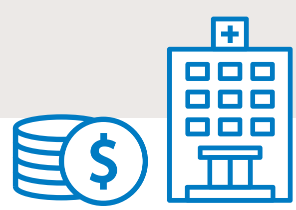
Fines and penalties from the DRP total more than $71 million in 2019.

- Approximately half of this revenue goes into Account 5111.
- The other half goes to state general revenue.

The intent of this legislation is to preserve trauma hospital funding and state general revenue.

Importantly, both bills identify other sources of revenue to maintain funding for Texas' designated trauma hospitals. These are the 283 hospitals that have earned designation as specialty care facilities because they have staff, equipment and resources deemed essential for providing lifesaving care for Texans experiencing a traumatic injury, such as from a fall, assault, industrial accident, car crash, gunshot wound or terror or other mass casualty event.

Revenue from the DRP and state traffic fine support appropriations from Account 5111 that are combined with federal matching funds, yielding **$176.4 million** for Texas' trauma hospitals annually.



HB 2048 / SB 918 replace the DRP revenue with:

1 Revenue from increasing the amount of the existing state traffic fine from the current $30 to $50.

- Local governments would retain 4 percent of the revenue from the state traffic fine. The remaining funds would be disbursed between Account 5111 and state general revenue.

2 Revenue from increasing the amount of the administrative fee on issuers of motor vehicle insurance from the current $2 to $4.

- 60 percent of this revenue would go to Account 5111.
- 20 percent would go to state general revenue.
- 20 percent would go to the Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority.

3 Increased fines on individuals convicted of driving while intoxicated; fines would range from $3,000 to $6,000, depending on the circumstances.

- Local governments would retain 4 percent of the revenue. Of the remaining funds, 30 percent would go to Account 5111 and 70 percent to state general revenue.