



2025 LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP



LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY
texmed.org/Legislature

ACCESS TO CARE – ADVANCED

- **Scope:** Stopped two major full expansion bills for advanced practice registered nurses – among the most filed in a single session – along with dozens of other scope bills; supported a veto of a bill that would have harmed patient safety by severely weakening the Texas Medical Board’s ability to issue certain cease and desist orders regarding the unlicensed practice of medicine.
- **Workforce:** Increased funding for undergraduate and graduate medical education to enable retention of the 1.1 to 1 ratio, and for the Texas Medical Board; maintained funding for Texas’ physician loan repayment and rural training programs; gained new money to study Texas’ OB-gyn workforce and bolster family physician training in obstetrics.
- **Immunizations/Public Health:** Protected access to routine immunizations for adults and children; secured long-sought regulation of e-cigarette products and marketing aimed at children; improved nutrition and physical activity for Texans, especially in schools.
- **Medicaid:** Preserved the 2023 targeted Medicaid payment raises with no rate cuts in 2025; obtained additional monies to streamline and modernize eligibility and enrollment programs so patients and physicians don’t lose continuity in care and revenue, respectively. Includes funding to work through backlogged applications within and technology improvements to the Texas Integrated Eligibility Redesign System and 2-1-1 phone system, plus enhancements to the Provider Enrollment and Management System.

PRACTICE VIABILITY – SUPPORTED

- **Insurance:** Defended against an increasing onslaught of aggressive health-plan-backed bills, including two major pieces of legislation that would have undone decades’ worth of TMA insurance protections for physicians and patients and subjected physicians to additional criminal and civil fraud liability for good-faith billing discrepancies. Won overdue improvements to Texas’ gold-card prior authorization law that require better tracking and promote insurer accountability.
- **Technology:** Retained the human element in health information technology with legislation that: allows physicians – not patient portals – to first communicate sensitive test results to patients; prevents health plans from using artificial intelligence (AI) to deny medically necessary care; and requires disclosures of the use of AI in health care.
- **Medical liability:** Stopped legislation that would have indexed the landmark 2003 non-economic damages cap and a major vaccine-related bill that would have expanded physician liability and civil penalties for adverse events.

PHYSICIAN AUTONOMY – PRESERVED

- **Women’s health:** Clarified the timing and applicability for the medical emergency exceptions to the state’s abortion prohibition via the Life-of-the-Mother Act, in an effort to mitigate physicians’ legal risk when intervening in a complicated pregnancy. Women’s health programs also saw significant budget gains, alongside new funding for maternal health outcome improvement programs.
- **Noncompetes:** Succeeded in a landmark multi-session legislative solution that balances employer and employed physician relationships by, among other things, limiting noncompete agreement terms to no later than one year after the date the contract terminated and no more than a 5-mile geographic radius from the location where the physician primarily practiced before the contract terminated.
- **Consolidation:** Defeated far-reaching legislation that would have imposed onerous reporting requirements on even small physician practices for uncomplicated business transactions, such as merging or signing a lease, plus significant financial and civil penalties if those reporting requirements weren’t met.

2026-27 BUDGET BY THE NUMBERS



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BUDGET KEY

Arrows below reflect an overall **increase**, **decrease**, or **no change** in funding from the 2024-25 budget.

- ↑ FUNDING INCREASE
- ↓ FUNDING DECREASE
- | NO CHANGE IN FUNDING

WORKFORCE

- ↑ **\$75 MILLION**
Per-medical student formula funding
- \$71 MILLION**
State GME Expansion Grant Program
- \$48 MILLION**
Texas Medical Board
- \$6 MILLION**
Per-resident formula funding
- NEW! \$5 MILLION**
Family medicine-OB training tracks
- NEW! \$200K**
OB-gyn workforce study

- \$35 MILLION**
Physician Loan Repayment Program
- \$16 MILLION**
Family Medicine Residency Program
- \$12 MILLION**
Joint Admission Medical Program
- \$5 MILLION**
Primary Care Preceptorship Program
- \$3 MILLION**
Rural Residency Training Program

MEDICAID

- NO ROLLBACK**
of payment rate increases won in 2023
- NO NEW CUTS**
to current payments
- ↑ **\$163 MILLION**
Modernize and resolve backlogs within the Texas Integrated Eligibility Redesign System
- \$4 MILLION**
Bolster the Provider Enrollment and Management System
- \$6 BILLION***
Cover caseload growth and account for slight drop in federal match
**(includes federal funds)*

WOMEN'S HEALTH

- ↑ **\$147 MILLION**
Family Planning Program
- \$125 MILLION**
Maternal and child health
- \$98 MILLION**
Healthy Texas Women
- \$20 MILLION**
Women's preventive mobile health units
- NEW! \$5 MILLION**
Maternal health outcome program
- \$4 MILLION**
Healthy Texas Women Plus
- \$7 MILLION**
Breast and Cervical Cancer Services

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

- ↑ **\$291 MILLION**
Texas Child Mental Health Care Consortium
- \$235 MILLION**
Community mental health grant programs
- NEW! \$5 MILLION**
Behavioral health innovation training grant program
- \$680 MILLION**
Adult community mental health services
- \$500 MILLION**
Substance use prevention, intervention, treatment
- \$207 MILLION**
Child community mental health services

PUBLIC HEALTH

- ↑ **\$109 MILLION**
Consumer protection (e.g. food and drug safety)
- \$32 MILLION**
Chronic disease prevention
- \$710 MILLION**
Infectious disease prevention
- \$164 MILLION**
Immunizations
- \$18 MILLION**
Tobacco prevention
- ↓ **-\$600 MILLION**
Expiring federal grant funding