



## Legislative Update February 2017

We are over a month into the 85<sup>th</sup> Legislative session. As you are aware, the TFCA has established a list of priorities and have been working on these since late last year. The Executive Committee is functioning as the Legislative Committee and have been working closely with our lobbyists to determine the best avenues to travel. Before the session began, we established a weekly conference call with TML and our lobbyists to stay engaged with TML on the details of all the legislation that could affect us. These calls occur at 1pm every Friday. There are typically at least two TFCA representatives at TML during the call.

So far we have made some progress on the \$1.5 million rider that the TCFP has been strapped with for many years now. On Tuesday and Wednesday of last week, Chief Shipp and I spent a great deal of time at the Capital meeting with members of the Senate Finance Committee and various House members. We discussed the Rider and Chief Shipp distributed our list of priorities and worked to find support for the TIFMAS funding increase needed. On Wednesday, the Senate Finance Committee held their first meeting on **SB 2**, which is the budget. That meeting lasted until after 7pm but went very well as far as the TCFP is concerned.

There are some bills that we are now tracking regularly because they appear to have an impact on many of us if passed. **HB 1148** deals with EMS RACs and how these will be managed in the future. There is a GETAC meeting on Feb 22 that should be enlightening and we will have representation there. **HB 1509 & 1510** deal with ESDs and could be detrimental to them. We are monitoring these closely and will keep you updated. The other bills that deserve watching are **HB 56, HB 312, HB 1009, SB 580 & SB 636**.

In addition, we will soon be asking you to send letters to your representatives about the TCFP rider and we want to recommend if you have an opinion on HB 1148 (regarding EMS RACs), you may reach out to Rep. Sarah Davis and offer your view. Once we have more definitive information on how this will impact everyone, we may ask for letters related to our position.

Please direct any questions, comments or concerns to me at [mwisko@galvestontx.gov](mailto:mwisko@galvestontx.gov). I will work to get you answers and keep everyone updated as to our progress.

Respectfully,

Mike Wisko  
President