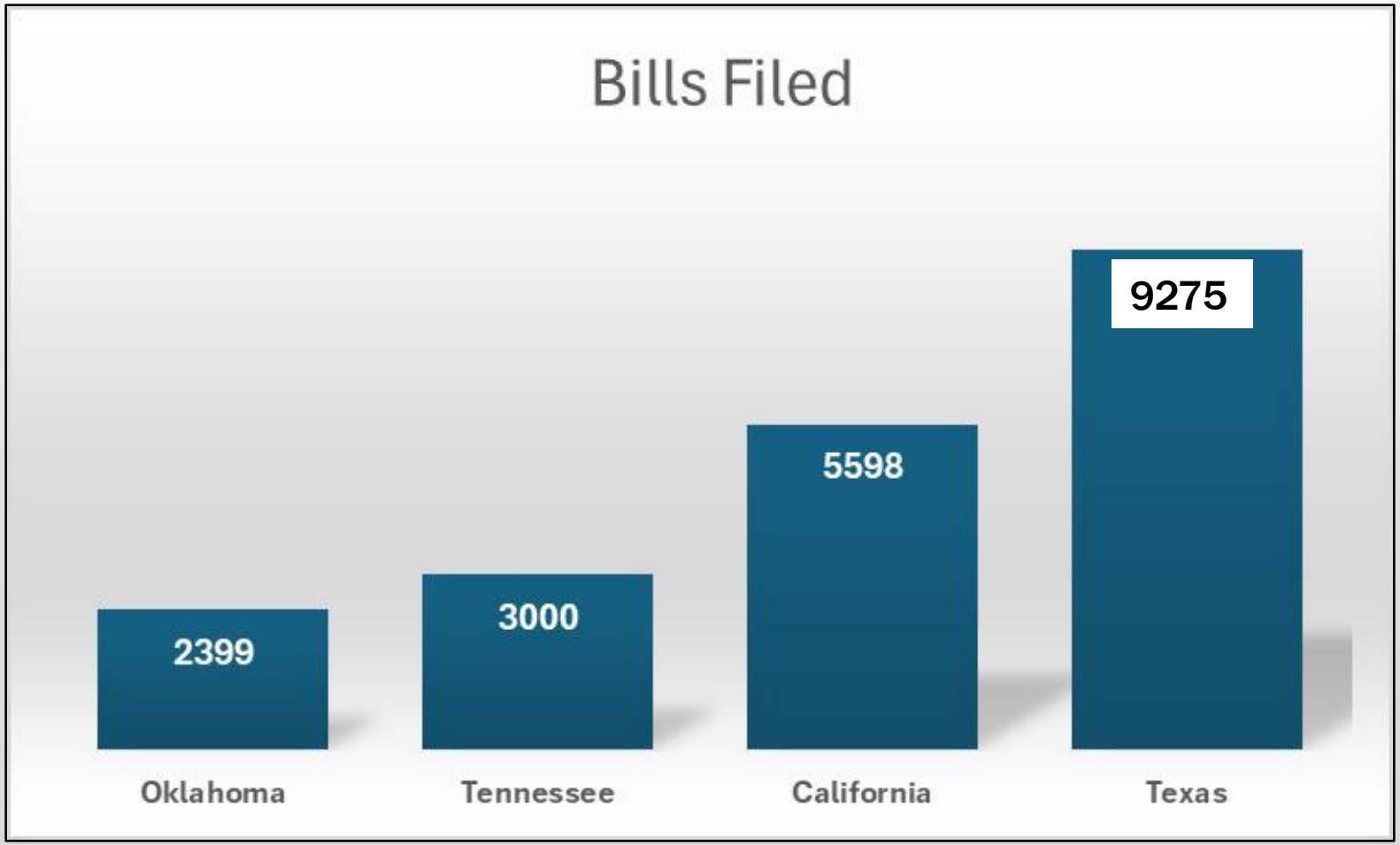
TEXAS EMS ALLIANCE

Legislative Report

89TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE

BUTCH OBERHOFF
PRESIDENT

Texas Capitol Was Busy!



There’s a new sheriff in town…..and some new deputies.

HOUSE

- Speaker Dustin Burrows from Lubbock
- Public Health Chair Gary Vandeaver
- Insurance Chair Jay Dean
- Human Services Chair Lacey Hull
- Appropriations Chair Dr. Greg Bonnen

Meanwhile, back at the ranch....

SENATE

- Republicans control 20 of 31 seats
- Key members include:
  - Senator Lois Kolkhorst – Chair, Health and Human Services
  - Senator Joan Huffman – Chair, Senate Finance
  - Senator Charles Schwertner – Chair, Business and Commerce
  - Senator Judith Zaffirini – Dean of Senate, champion for SB 916
  - Senator Charles Perry – Chair of Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs and Vice-Chair of Health and Human Services

Protect SB 916 – EMS Balance Billing

- Extend sunset to 2027
- Language agreed to by TEMSA and TAHP
- Sponsored by Senator Zaffirini and Representative Spiller
- Unanimously passed by Senate and House

Whole Blood

- Asked for $4 million to expand the program. Senate Finance Chair **Huffman increased to $10 million AND offered to carry it.**
- Rep Dr. Oliverson offered to carry in House and also increased to $10 million
- Equipment and blood.
- THANK YOU Dr.Kidd, Dr. Jenkins and Dr. Winckler!

EMS Workforce

PASSED!

- Build on the momentum of the SB 8 program
- $2.5 million for EMS scholarships.
- Administered by the Texas Workforce Commission

Rural EMS Grant Program – SB 1377 / HB 3000

- Initiative by County Judges, Commissioners and TAC with input from TEMSA
- Focus is rural Texas, funding administered by county judges
- Population 10,000 or less - $500,000
- Population 10,000 to 68,500 - $350,000
- Only for purchase of ambulances

Human Trafficking Education – HB 742

- Will be consistent with other health care entities
- Initial Training
- HHSC will have to develop curriculum and notify EMS agencies

Waiving Tuition and Fees for Paramedics – HB 1105

- Public Agency Employees
- Waive Tuition and Lab Fees for courses in emergency medical services
- Academic Performance Stipulations

SB 672 – Plans for Hospital Service Interruptions

- Would require hospitals to submit the state their plans for handling service interruptions due to disasters, including cyber attacks.
- Borrowed language directly from the Joint Commission standards.
- Initial wording used the term “diversion” and we asked the author to re-word it.

HB 3749 – Related to paramedics performing elective IV therapy

- Targeted at “med spa” operations providing elective IV therapy.
- Largely were unregulated.
- Huge support in both chambers.
- In our opinions – Does not in any way affect EMS, MIH, Community Paramedicine or Hospital at Home programs operated by EMS agencies under our medical directors.

HB 331 – Worker's Comp

PASSED!

- A stroke or cardiac event suffered by a firefighter or EMS professional within eight hours of their shift is presumed to be a work-related illness
- Public LEO, Fire or EMS
- Went into effect May 24

HB 1109 – Fuel Tax Relief

PASSED!

Fuel purchased by a county for the exclusive use of the county is exempt from fuel taxes.

HB 4995 – Weapons Carried by Tactical Medics

Establishes rules and guidelines for tactical medics that carry weapons

- Minimum Standards
- Training
- Liability

SB 1266 – Medicaid Provider Enrollment and Credentialling

- Addresses shortcomings in enrollment portal
- Affects ALL Medicaid providers, not just EMS
- SB 1266 provides for a complaint process for providers and formal reporting from HHSC back to the legislature

HB 35 – Peer to Peer Support Program for Fire and EMS

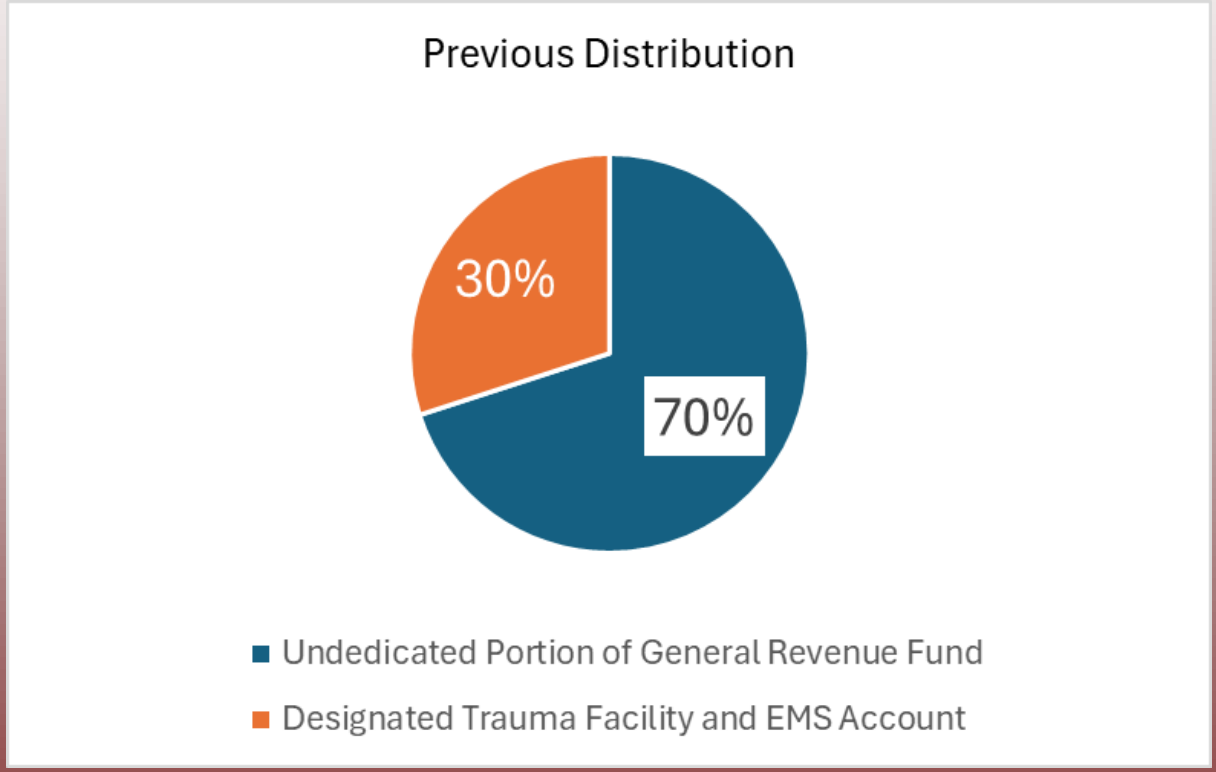
TDEM

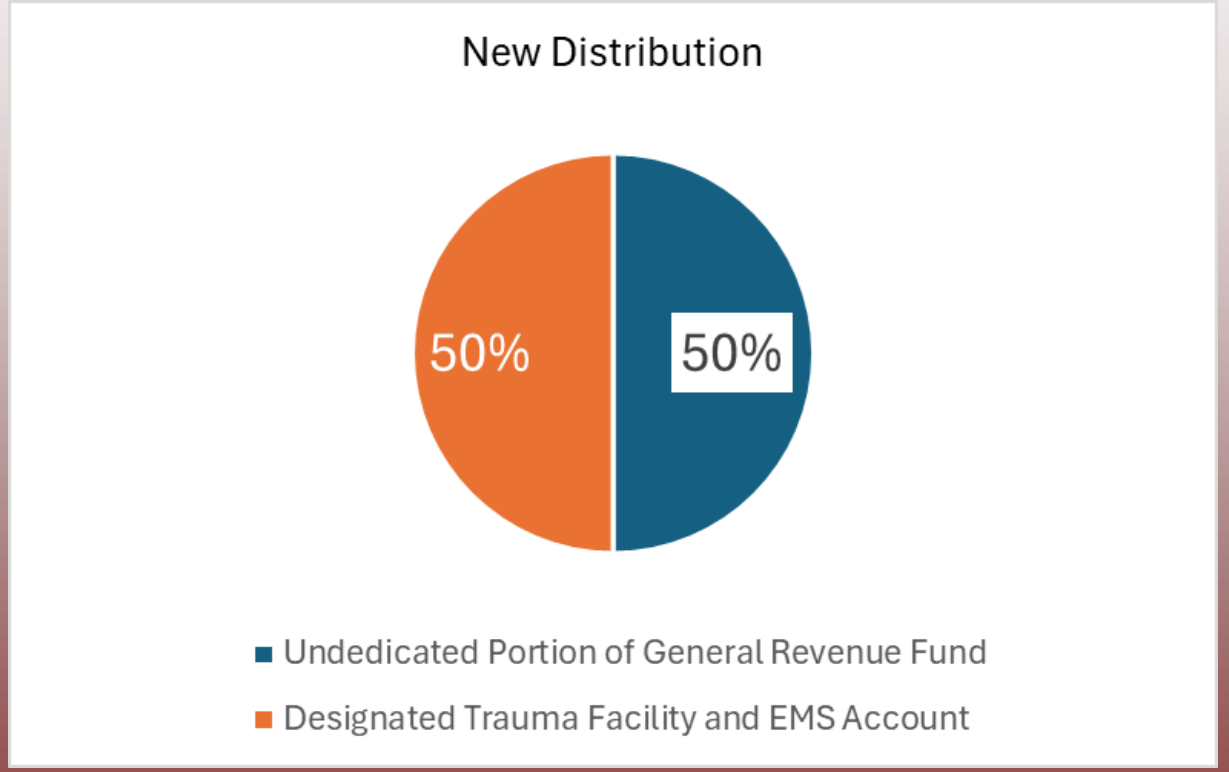
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

- Charges TDEM with developing a peer-to-peer program for fire and EMS.
- Training
- Technical Support
- Identifying, retaining and supporting mental health professionals

SB 1018 – Distribution of Traffic Fine Funds.

PASSED!





SB 2418 – Timely Billing

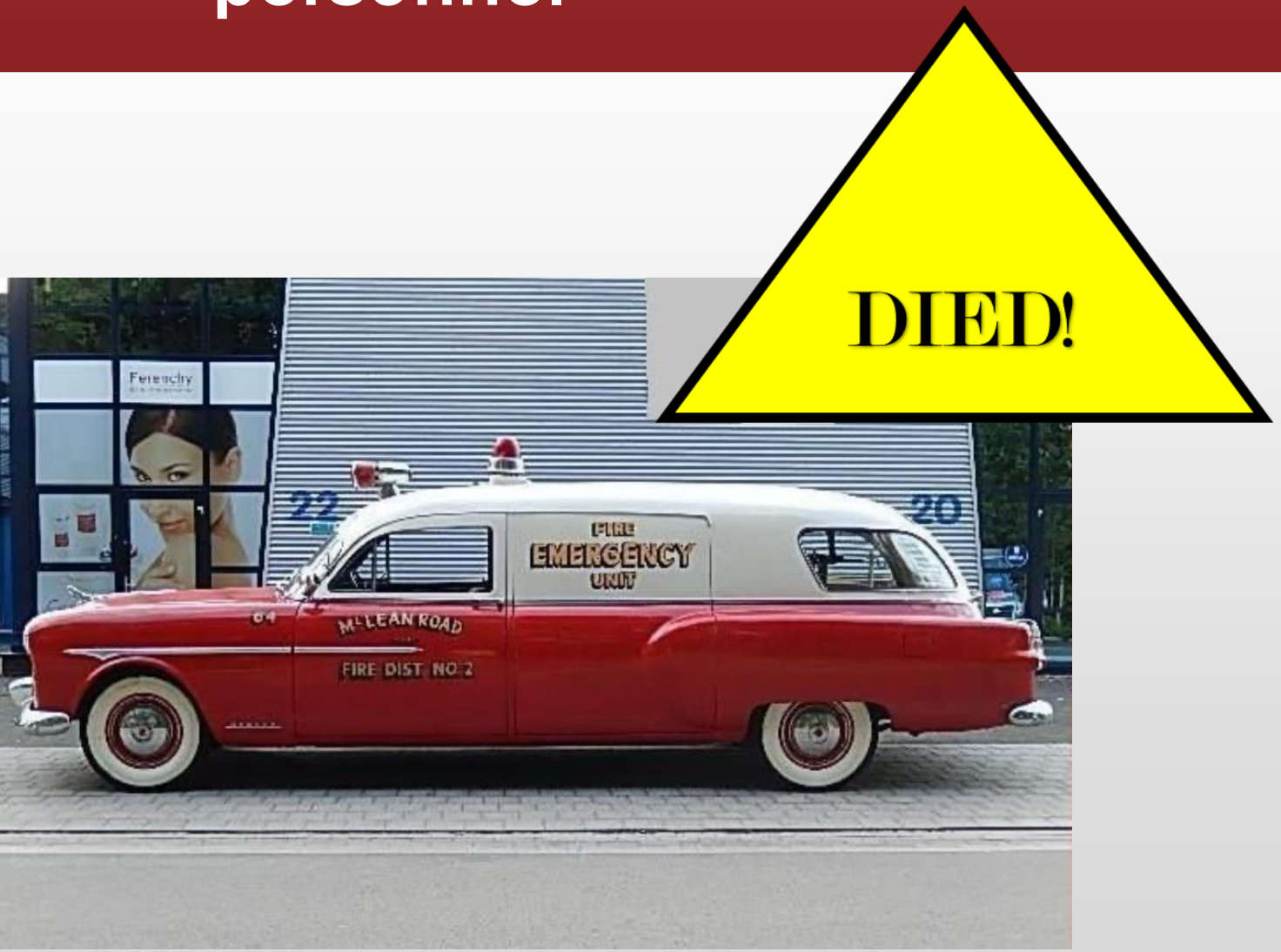
- Would require health care entities – including EMS – to get bills out within 90 days of date of service
- EMS is unique in that we have little to no ability to verify coverage
- Lots of opposition

HB 1656/SB 2706 – Emergency Detention by Paramedics

- A number of physicians, including Dr. Kidd, joined the TMA in meeting with Rep Howard to address concerns with the bill.
- Rep Howard accepted much of the suggested substitute language.
- Not likely to

DIED!

SB 2640/HB 5556 – Allowing for non-certified personnel



- Would have provided for non-certified drivers to partner with certified medics.
- TEMSA worked to explain a process already exists and this would invite bad players.

SB 1138 – Response to Unlicensed Group Homes

DIED!

- Well intentioned bill looking to hold unlicensed group homes accountable
- Very vague about expectations for EMS
- Amended to be bracketed to certain counties

HB 2622 – Body cameras in place of female attendant for female mental health patients

- Current law requires a female attendant when transporting a female psych patient, unless the patient's father, husband, or adult brother accompany her.
- This law would all an exception if the attendant is equipped with a body camera.
- Awaiting a floor vote in the House.

DIED!

SB 19/HB 1294/HB 1189 – Preventing Public Funds for Lobbying

TEXAS EMS ALLIANCE

Reimbursement

Of course we asked for a Medicaid increase.

And got exactly what we expected.

What else is new? Prior Authorizations!

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Join TEMSA....today!

- One of the STRONGEST and MOST EFFECTIVE advocacy organizations in the state!
- The recognized experts on EMS issues for legislature, media and industry experts
- Strong resource for information about issues affecting EMS

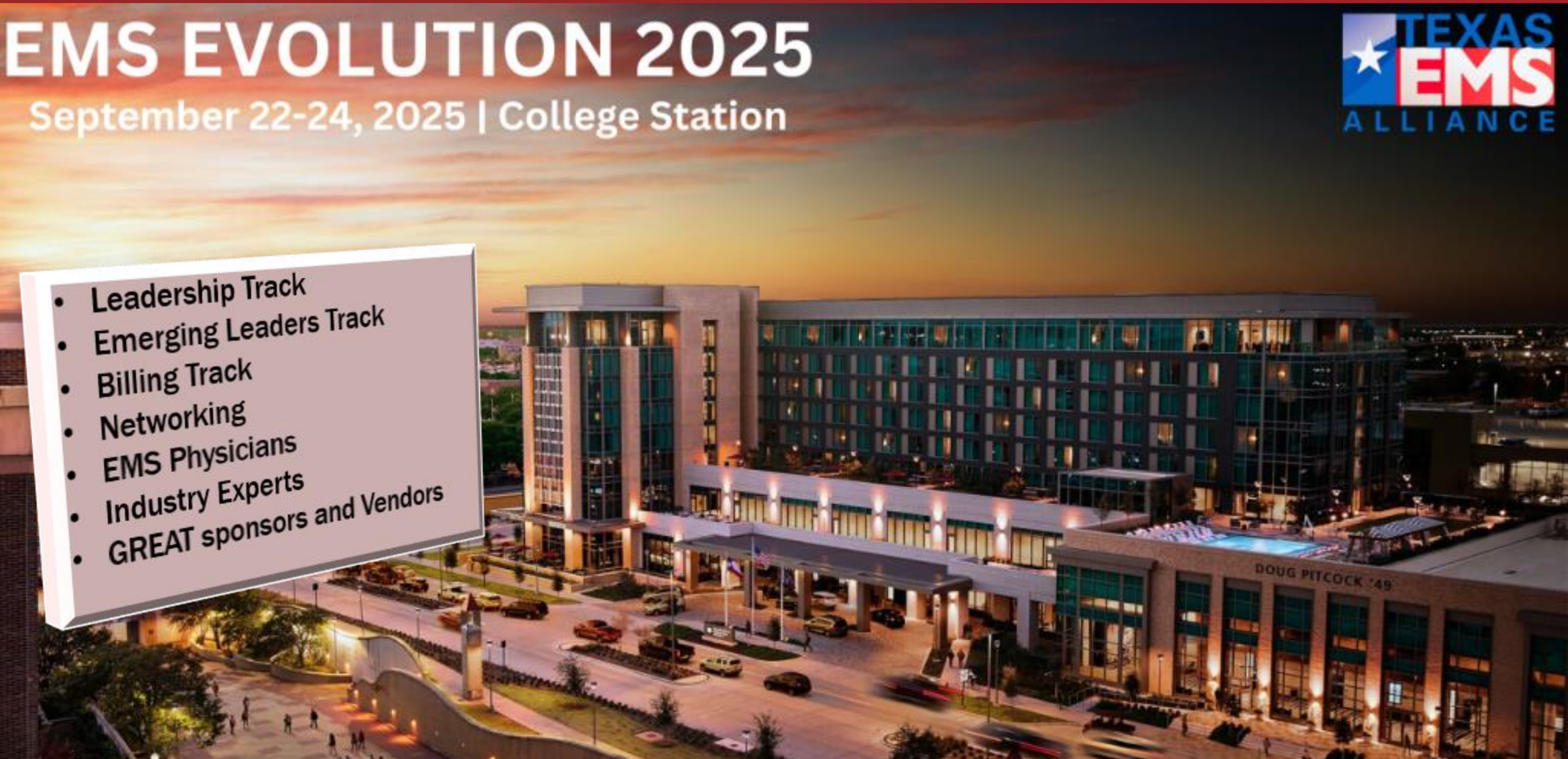
TEAMWORK

Join TEMSA!!!! Today!!

TEMSA's Group Purchasing Organization reduces your costs!

Our members report that the savings MORE than pays for the TEMSA membership!

Join Us!


EMS EVOLUTION 2025
September 22-24, 2025 | College Station
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Questions?

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