

Adequately Fund the Texas Medical Board

Texas leads the nation in numeric population growth, and over the years, the state's physician workforce has grown significantly as well. To keep up with these and other trends, the state needs a strong and fair Texas Medical Board (TMB) that protects Texas patients, upholds high ethical and professional standards for physicians, helps preserve the state's 2003 medical liability reforms, and maintains Texas physicians' professional image.

Those duties require adequate operational funding and staffing. Yet TMB cannot retain any of the funds it collects in physician licensure fees to meet its demanding workload. Instead, 100% of that money goes into the state's general fund.

TMB needs a bigger budget to manage the ever-growing number of medical license applications and renewals for a total of 90,000 active-practice licensed physicians. Since 2003, Texas has licensed 75,041 physicians. Last year, TMB received a record-breaking 7,063 medical license applications and issued 6,584 licenses (see chart), a 24% increase over the previous year. Under state mandate, TMB must process medical license applications within an average of 51 days. The historic increases in license applications places pressure on the agency, with its existing resources, to continue to meet this mandate.

The agency's workload further increased when Texas joined the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact in 2022. Physicians licensed in one of the 38 other states in the compact can qualify for voluntary, expedited medical licensing in Texas, and some 80% of U.S. physicians meet the criteria.

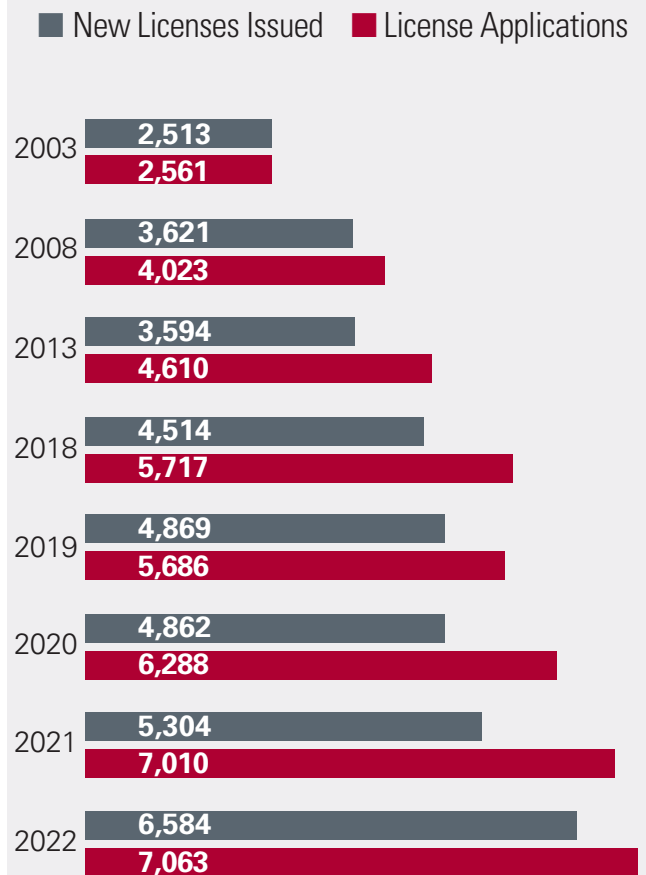
TMB also plays a significant role in the regulation of telemedicine and opioids, two areas of high priority for the state. TMB continues to evolve to meet its directives of protecting the public and needs adequate funds and staffing to fulfill this responsibility.

TMA's Legislative Recommendations

- Increase Texas Medical Board operational funding, including funds for additional staffing needed to process licensing applications, renewals, and permits to keep pace with the historic growth.
- Defend the board's ability to protect patients while maintaining fair disciplinary processes for physicians.

In 2022, TMB issued **6,584** new licenses, a **24%** increase over the previous year.

Texas Medical Licenses, 2003-22



SOURCE: Texas Medical Board



Physicians Caring for Texans

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