

TX HB1692

Texas 88th Legislature
***An ACT relating to contract provisions and conduct affecting
healthcare provider networks.***
Bill Author: James Frank (R)

Rep. Frank authored HB1692 to bring transparency and accountability to hospital's charging arbitrary facility fees.

“We are paying twice as much for health care, for the same results as the rest of the first world. And it is because of a lack of transparency, lack of competition and lack of patient involvement. We've got to have all three.”

Rep. James Frank

Hospital facility fees are adding arbitrary, unnecessary costs to patients and employers and require legal intervention

- The issue at hand pertains to reining in facility fees levied by particular healthcare providers in Texas.
- The bill at hand aims to provide a clear definition of what constitutes a facility fee, who is considered a healthcare provider, and which services are exempt from the fee.
- The bill prohibits healthcare providers from charging a facility fee for certain services, unless they are provided on a hospital campus or at a freestanding emergency medical care facility.
- To ensure compliance, healthcare providers are required to submit reports detailing any facility fees charged and may be audited. If a healthcare provider violates the bill, the Department of State Health Services may levy an administrative penalty of up to \$1,000.

HB1692 will prohibit the following practices:

- Arbitrary facility fees by hospitals by demanding transparency and definitions for fees.
- Makes some services exempt from facility fees.
- Healthcare providers from charging a facility fee for certain services, unless they are provided on a hospital campus or at a freestanding emergency medical care facility.

To pass HB1692, Texas Employers for Affordable Healthcare (<https://txeahc.org/>) needs a broad support of Texas employers, including the following asks:

- Place your company logo in support of legislation to prohibit undue fee structures on www.txeahc.org/take-action-now/.
- Tell your story - provide a short testimonial (2-3 sentences) about your experience dealing with healthcare prices for your company and your employees and its negative impact.
- Contact your senator here, <https://www.congressweb.com/TXEAH/6/>.