

Freestanding Emergency Medical Care Facilities

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What is a Freestanding Emergency Medical Care Facility?

HB 1357, 81st Legislature, Regular Session, 2009 required the Department of State Health Services to establish licensing requirements for freestanding emergency medical care facility.

Texas Health and Safety Code, subsection 254.001(5), defines this facility type as:

1. A facility that is structurally separate and distinct from a hospital.
2. One that receives an individual and provides emergency care.

As of September 1, 2017, these facilities are regulated by the new Regulatory Services division at the Health and Human Services Commission.

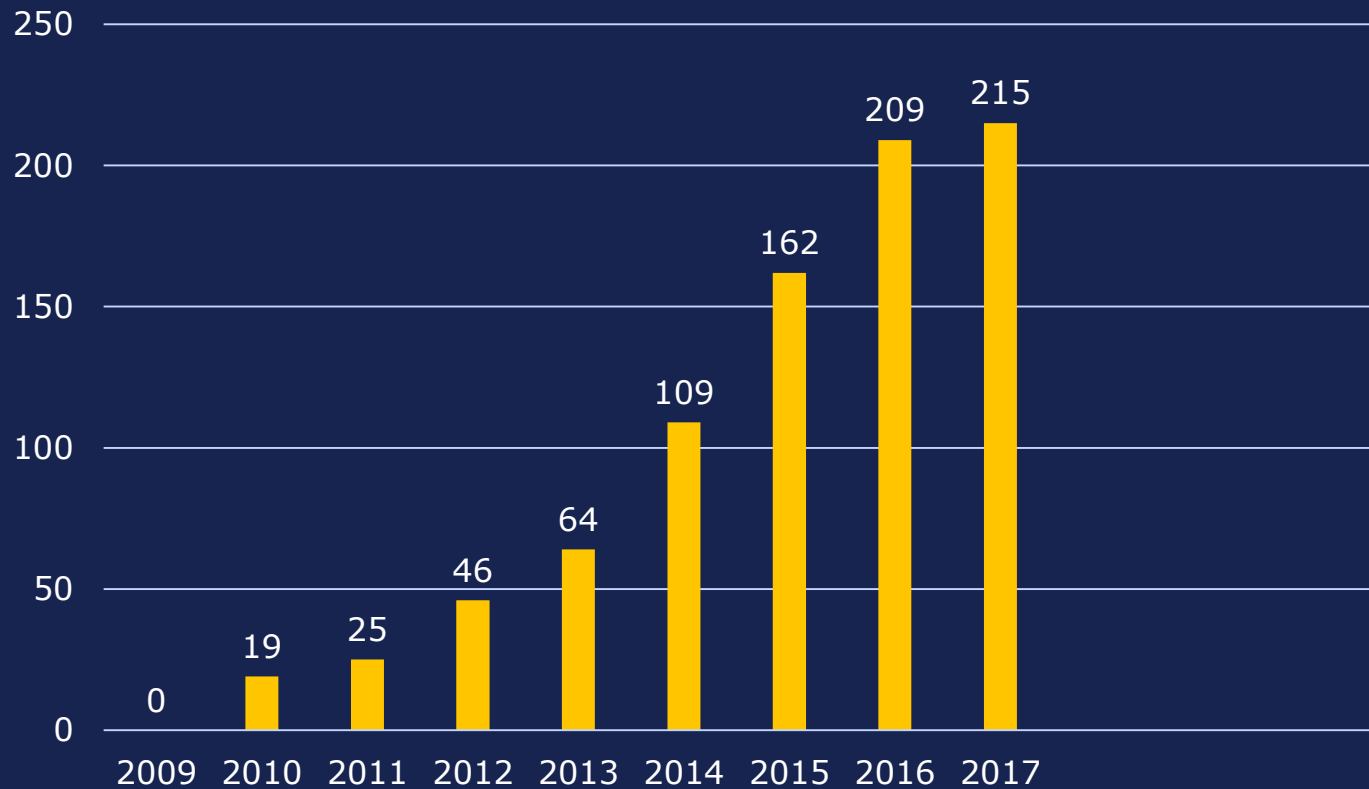


Licensing Requirements

- Application and fee (\$14,820)
- Attendance at a pre-survey conference at the regional office
- Architectural inspection and approval
- Approval of patient transfer documents:
 - Transfer agreement
 - Transfer policy
 - Memorandum of transfer
- Approved fire safety survey current within 1 year



Number of Freestanding Emergency Facilities in Texas



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209 Licensed Facilities in Texas: Breakdown by County

County	# of Facilities	County	# of Facilities	County	# of Facilities
Angelina	1	Fort Bend	4	Orange	2
Aransas	1	Galveston	3	Parker	2
Austin	1	Grayson	1	Polk	1
Bell	3	Gregg	2	Potter	2
Bexar	19	Guadalupe	1	Randall	2
Bowie	3	Hardin	1	San Patricio	1
Brazoria	7	Harris	34	Smith	3
Brazos	3	Hays	3	Tarrant	12
Cameron	3	Hidalgo	2	Taylor	1
Chambers	1	Jefferson	4	Tom Green	1
Collin	7	Lamar	1	Travis	13
Comal	3	Lubbock	5	Victoria	2
Dallas	12	Maverick	1	Webb	3
Denton	4	McLennan	3	Wichita	1
Ector	2	Midland	3	Williamson	4
El Paso	5	Montgomery	4	Wilson	1
Ellis	1	Nacogdoches	1		
Erath	1	Nueces	8		



Pending License Applications by County

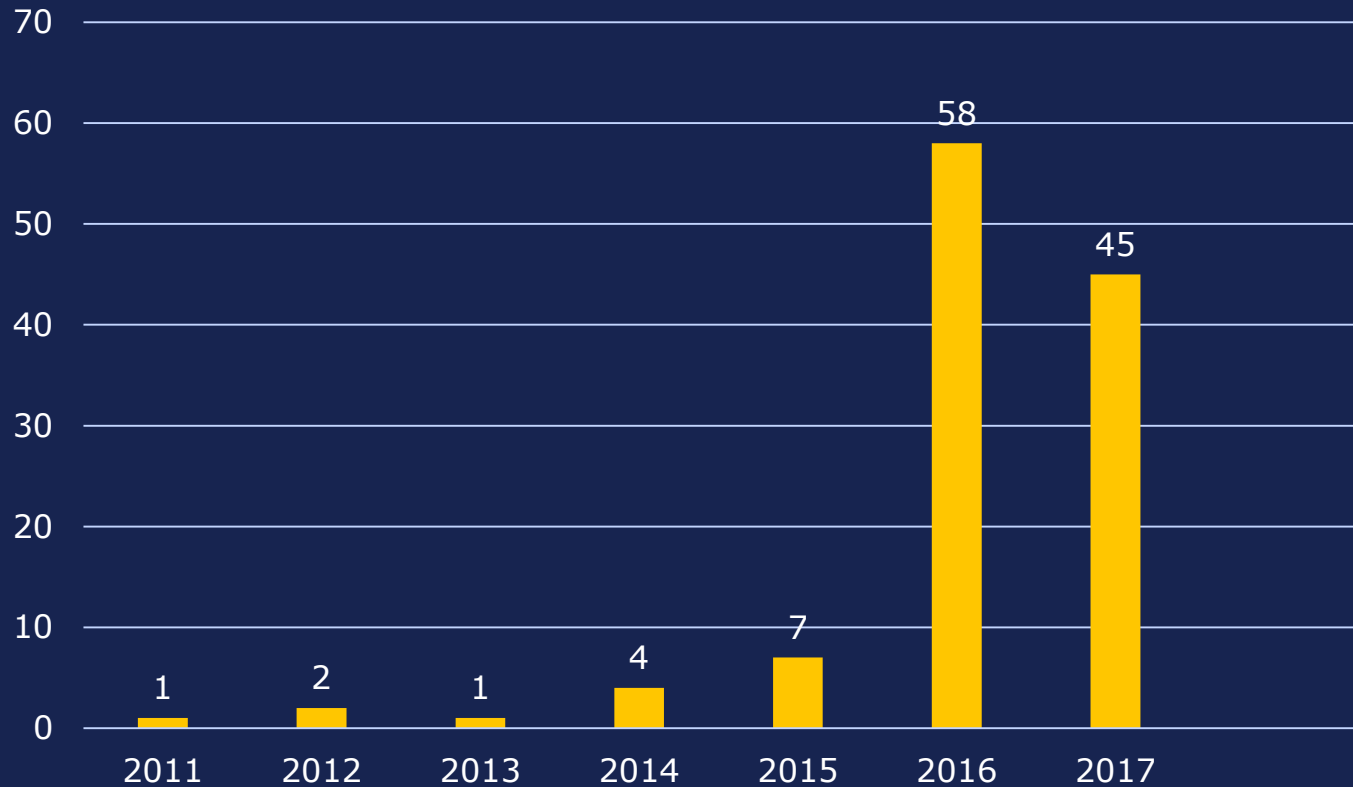
County	Pending Applications	County	Pending Applications
Bexar	1	Guadalupe	1
Brazoria	1	Jefferson	1
Comal	1	Lamar	1
Dallas	1	Rockwall	1
El Paso	1	Williamson	1
Fort Bend	1	Wilson	1
Galveston	1		
Grayson	2		



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License Closures by Year



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Statutory Requirements: Notice of Fees

A facility shall post notice that:

- The facility is a freestanding emergency medical care facility;
- The facility charges rates comparable to a hospital emergency room and may charge a facility fee;
- A facility or a physician providing medical care at the facility may not be a participating provider in the patient's health benefit plan provider network; and
- A physician providing medical care at the facility may bill separately from the facility for the medical care provided to a patient; and

Notice of a facility's fees must be in legible print on an 8.5 inches by 11 inches document. It also must be located:

- At the facility's primary entrance;
- In each patient's treatment room;
- At the patient's check-out station; and
- On the facility's website.



Statutory Requirements

HB 3276, 85th Regular Session, added the following requirements:

- A facility shall post notice that either:
 - Lists the health benefit plans in which the facility is a participating provider in the health benefit plan's provider network; or
 - States the facility is not a participating provider in any health benefit plan provider network.
- If a facility is a participating provider in one or more health benefit plan provider networks the facility must:
 - Provide notice on the facility's website listing the health benefit plans in which the facility is a participating provider in the health benefit plan's provider network; and
 - Provide to a patient written confirmation of whether the facility is a participating provider in the patient's health benefit plan's provider network.





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Thank you
