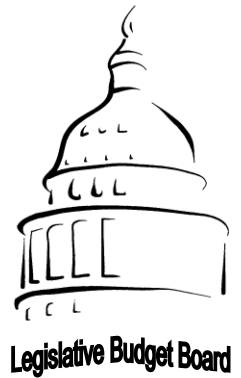


# Update on Driver Responsibility Program Funds

Senate Committee on Transportation & Homeland  
Security

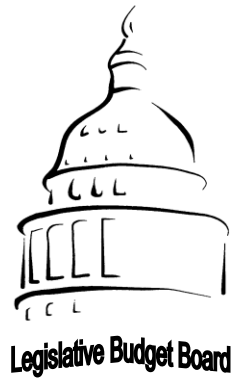
October 2010

# Driver Responsibility Program



- Chapter 708, Transportation Code
- Enacted by House Bill 3588, Seventy-eighth Legislature, Regular Session
  - Amended by House Bill 2, Seventy-eighth Legislature, Third Called Session
  - Amended by Senate Bill 1723, Eightieth Legislature, Regular Session
  - Amended by House Bill 2730, Eighty-first Legislature, Regular Session

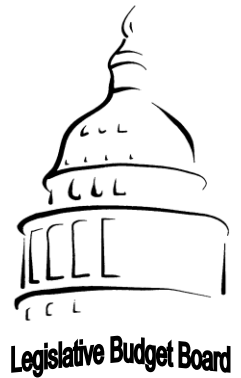
# Driver Responsibility Program



- Surcharges based on driving violations
- Statute became effective September 1, 2003
- Used as a source of revenue for General Revenue and Trauma/EMS Account No. 5111

# Driver Responsibility Program

## Four categories of violations

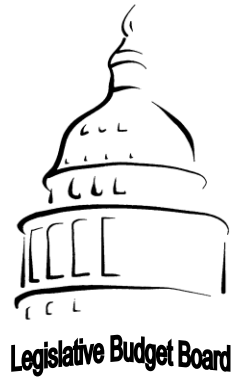


- Points: accumulating six or more points from specific moving violations;
- Driving while Intoxicated (DWI): failing a blood alcohol test;
- License Invalid/No Insurance:
  - driving while license invalid (DWLI), meaning that the license is suspended or revoked, or
  - failing to maintain financial responsibility (having no insurance)
- No License (NL): driving with no license or an expired license

# Driver Responsibility Program

## Driver License Points

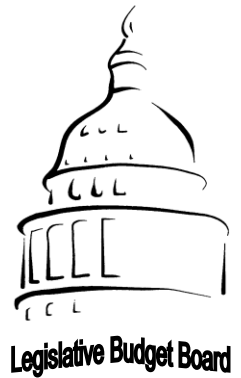
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- Two points for a moving violation
- Three points for a moving violation that results in an accident
- Exempt: speeding less than 10 percent over posted speed limit, unless in school zone
- Each year, a surcharge is assessed if six or more points accumulated during the preceding 36 months

# Driver Responsibility Program

## Annual Surcharges

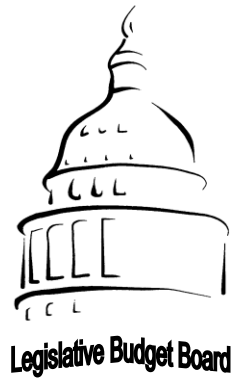


- Points: \$100 for the first six points and \$25 for each additional point
- DWI:
  - \$1,000 for a first offense
  - \$1,500 for a second or subsequent DWI conviction
  - \$2,000 if alcohol concentration is 0.16 or more
- DWLI or No Insurance: \$250
- No License: \$100

# Driver Responsibility Program

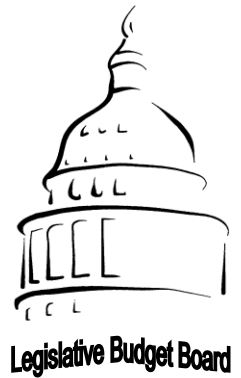
## Annual Surcharges

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- Collected for three years following final conviction
- If an individual has not entered into agreement to pay the surcharge by the 30th day after notification, license is automatically suspended

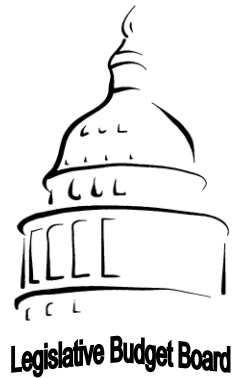
# Driver Responsibility Program Modifications



- Senate Bill 1723, Eightieth Legislature, allowed:
  - more extensive collection techniques,
  - reinstatement of installment plans,
  - amnesty programs, and
  - a reduction in surcharges or the number of years a surcharge would be paid when the offender demonstrates an improvement in behavior



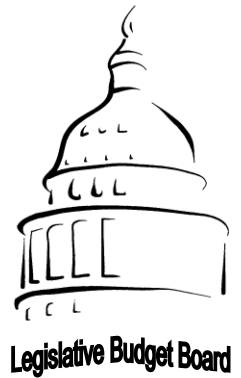
# Driver Responsibility Program Modifications



- House Bill 2730, Eighty-first Legislature, Regular Session, required:
  - clearer notices and a more extensive notification period,
  - better-defined reinstatement of installment plans, and
  - an indigency program
- DPS has proposed rules to implement these changes

# Driver Responsibility Program

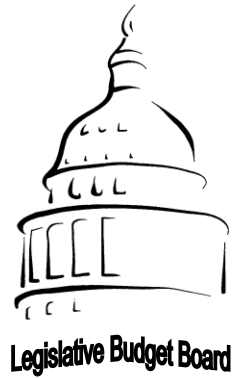
## Collections and Compliance



- The compliance rate rose from about 30 percent in 2006 to nearly 40 percent in 2009
- Through fiscal year 2010, the overall compliance rate by category was:
  - 72 percent compliance for points violations
  - 41 percent compliance for DWI violations
  - 40 percent compliance for DWLI or No Insurance violations
  - 29 percent compliance for No License violations

# Driver Responsibility Program

## Funds Allocation: Current Law



### Driver Responsibility Program

1.0% -- GR Fund (DPS)

49.5% -- Trauma Account 5111

49.5% -- GR Fund

### \$30 State Traffic Fine

(Locals retain 5%)

33% -- Trauma Account 5111

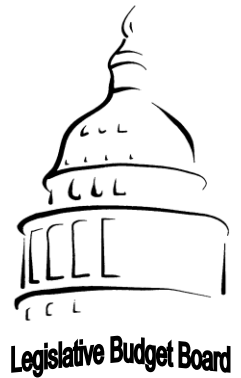
67% -- GR Fund

\$250 Million General Revenue Cap Per Fiscal Year

After General Revenue Cap → Texas Mobility Fund 365

# Driver Responsibility Program

## Collections (in millions), Fiscal Years 2005-2010



	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
<b>General Revenue</b>	\$0.4	\$49.7	\$80.0	\$84.6	\$85.7	\$81.9
<b>Trauma Account 5111</b>	\$18.2	\$48.7	\$78.5	\$81.1	\$84.0	\$80.4
<b>Mobility Fund 365</b>	\$18.2	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
<b>Total</b>	\$36.8	\$98.4	\$158.5	\$165.7	\$169.7	\$162.3