

The 19<sup>th</sup>  
Texas Silver-Haired Legislature  
2021 - 2023



# LEGISLATIVE REPORT

May 2 – 5, 2022

Legislative Session  
Austin, Texas



Members of the 19<sup>h</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature gather in the Rotunda of the Texas State Capitol following the swearing-in ceremony, July 19, 2021



Arriving at the Capitol for the Legislative Session, May 2, 2022



May 20

Honora

The 19th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature (TSHL) is proud and honored to present our Legislative Report for 2021-2023 to our elected State officials, their staffs, and state agencies associated with older Texans. Please accept this culmination of thorough training, extensive research, internal and external collaboration, and communication with our older Texas constituents and various state agency personnel. During this biennium, TSHL members submitted seventy-one proposed resolutions. After vetting through two committees and passage during House floor debate, fifty-four of these resolutions are presented for your review and action. Each resolution demonstrates material impact for older Texans, is addressable at the state level, and strives for non-partisanship.

We believe all fifty-four resolutions are important recommendations impacting older Texans. TSHL members consider the full range of issues that affect older Texans including safety and security, healthcare and healthcare access, nutrition, public pensions, senior voting, housing, transportation, and grandparents raising grandchildren.

After all fifty-four resolutions were passed, the TSHL identified our Top 10 priority legislative efforts for the Texas 2023 Legislative Session. Factors that influence this vote include the magnitude of those affected, the basic needs addressed, and the cost-benefit relationship. We invite your sincere attention to the Top 10 Resolutions of TSHL members.

While all fifty-four of these TSHL Resolutions have merit, we ask you to focus on turning the resolutions into bills that are of primary need and interest to older Texans in your districts. We look forward to working with you as you write, debate, and pass legislation that will assist older Texans in leading healthy, safe, productive, and independent lives. I invite you to contact the authors of the various Resolutions, members of TSHL from your district, or the TSHL officers with your questions or concerns on these Resolutions. We are here to work with you. You may also reach us through our new website [www.tshl.org](http://www.tshl.org).

Thank you for your consideration of these Resolutions, your interest in improving the lives of older Texans, and your diligence in passing legislation affecting older Texans.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Rhonda Rogers'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rhonda Rogers,  
Speaker, Texas Silver-Haired Legislature 2021-2023

## **LEGISLATIVE AUTHORIZATION**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 37

69<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature

Sponsors: Senator Hugh Parmer and Representative Jerry Clark

WHEREAS, Older Texans are the fastest growing segment of the population with the number of persons over the age of sixty in Texas having increased 32 percent between 1970 and 1980; and

WHEREAS, Many older Texans recognize the need to develop a better understanding of the legislative process through participation in this process of state policy development; and

WHEREAS, It is most appropriate in problem solving to involve those closely related to the problems to ensure more effective, lasting solutions; and

WHEREAS, A Silver-Haired Legislature is a model legislative session in which older Texans are elected by their peers to meet at the State Capitol to initiate and debate policy alternatives to deal with the problems that affect them; and

WHEREAS, Silver-Haired Legislatures have been used effectively in other states to inform elderly persons about the legislative process, to serve as a forum where the elderly can discuss policy issues on aging, and to recommend solutions to the problems of older Texans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate of the State of Texas, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislature of the State of Texas support the development of a biennial Silver-Haired Legislature in Texas; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the legislature of the state of Texas allow its chambers and meeting rooms, and other assistance as determined by the committee on House Administration and the Senate Committee on Administration, to be used by the Silver-Haired Legislature at a time that does not interfere with the regular biennial sessions of the legislature, special called sessions, or meeting of interim Legislative Committees; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That recommendations formulated by the Silver-Haired Legislature be submitted to the Governor of the State of Texas, the Texas Legislature, and the Texas Department on Aging at the close of the Silver-Haired Legislative Session.

Passed by 69<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature April 3, 1985

W. P. Hobby, President of the Senate

Gib Lewis, Speaker of the House

Signed by Governor Mark White, April 11, 1985

Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 12, 1985



Members of the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature are volunteers aged sixty and over who have been elected by our peers from twenty-eight regions to serve two-year terms. The Texas Legislature established this senior policy development program in 1985. No State funds have been appropriated for the operation of the Silver-Haired Legislature. We meet in the House of Representatives' Chambers of the Texas Capitol and conduct a non-partisan legislative session in even-numbered years.

### **Vision Statement**

The vision of the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature is that the applied wisdom, energy, and experience of aging will improve the lives of all Texans through education, knowledge, and involvement in legislation and governmental affairs.

### **Mission Statement**

Older Texans are the fastest growing segment of the population. The Texas Silver-Haired Legislature which was established by Concurrent Resolution of the Texas Senate in April 1985 (Senate Resolution 37 of the 69<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature) provides the opportunity for older Texans to solve problems unique to aging. In addition, the Silver-Haired Legislature can make Texas an even better place for all citizens through programs of education, discussion, and encouragement of the involvement of older Texans in legislative and governmental affairs.

### **Statement of Beliefs**

- ❖ Older citizens should have the opportunity to achieve dignity and independence.
- ❖ Older citizens experience unique problems; they have special abilities and talents which result from years of experience.
- ❖ Good government is the result of the active participation of informed citizens.
- ❖ Being an informed and active voter is the highest responsibility of citizenship.
- ❖ Effective and lasting solutions to problems result from involvement of those most closely related to the problems.
- ❖ Volunteer representatives elected by their peers and having close contact with their constituents are qualified to discuss issues on aging and recommend solutions to problems of older Texans.

### **HISTORY OF THE SILVER-HAIRED LEGISLATURE**

The first Silver-Haired Legislature was organized by the State of Missouri in 1973. The concept has now been adopted in twenty-six states.

The Texas Silver-Haired Legislature (TSHL) was introduced to the Board of Directors by the Advisory Council of the Texas Department on Aging in 1983 where it was listed as a "legislative priority." A resolution to establish the TSHL was passed by the Board in 1984. The following year, the 69<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution #37.

In 1986, planning and implementation was completed by a statewide steering committee together with the Texas Department on Aging Staff, members of the Area Agencies on Aging, and various volunteers. The elected members of the first TSHL met for a five-day training and orientation session in July of 1986. The Secretary of State swore in the first TSHL members on September 29 of that year.

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## TSHL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Date(s)	Event	Place
July 18, 2021	Executive Committee Meeting	Austin, TX
July 19-22, 2021	19 <sup>th</sup> TSHL Orientation Session	Austin, TX
October 10, 2021	Executive Committee Meeting	Austin, TX
October 11-13, 2021	19 <sup>th</sup> TSHL Training Session	Austin, TX
January 27, 2021	Executive Committee Meeting	Virtual
May 1, 2022	Executive Committee Meeting	Austin, TX
May 2-5, 2022	19 <sup>th</sup> TSHL Legislative Session	Austin, TX
July 21, 2022	Executive Committee Meeting	Corsicana, TX

### FUTURE TSHL EVENTS

October 13, 2022	Executive Committee Meeting	Boerne, TX
February 22, 2023	Executive Committee Meeting	Austin, TX
	TSHL Foundation Gala	Austin, TX
April 2023	Executive Committee Meeting	TBD
July 2023	20 <sup>th</sup> TSHL Orientation Session	Austin, TX



# ***TOP 10 PRIORITY RESOLUTIONS***



## TOP 10 PRIORITY RESOLUTIONS

The 19<sup>th</sup> TSHL passed a total of fifty-four resolutions during the Legislative Session, May 2-5, 2022. The resolutions that follow ask the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature for specific actions to benefit older Texans. The 19<sup>th</sup> TSHL membership selected these “Top Ten” priorities as those most important to older Texans statewide:

### *Listed in Rank Order*

#### **#1 – R003**

#### **Increase the Personal Needs Allowance for Medicaid Residents in Nursing Homes**

RESOLVED That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver Haired Legislature strongly urges the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to increase the Personal Needs Allowance for Medicaid residents to no less than \$85.00 per month, and that going forward the PNA be indexed with the CPI-W on a biennial basis.

By: Jetta Roberts, Sharon Brazeal, Sherry Hubbard, Sue Wilson, Scott Christensen, Rhonda Rogers, and Peggy Dimmick

#### **#2 – R041**

#### **Child-Related Income Follows the Child**

RESOLVED: That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to amend Subchapter 264.760 Chapter on Family Code, Eligibility for Foster Care Payments and Permanency Case Assistance, to read as follows: “Notwithstanding any other provisions of this subchapter, a kinship caregiver may receive these benefits provided by this subchapter.”

By: Mercedes Bristol, Sherry Hubbard, Scott Christensen

#### **#3 – R046**

#### **Increase the Readability of the Application and Vote-by-Mail Documentation to Reduce the Rejection Rate**

RESOLVED: That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature requires that the printed font size of mail-in voting material be maximized, with only black print on white paper, and the return ballot envelope size be maximized to make all information readable for the qualified voters without increasing the postage cost beyond one first-class stamp to the voter.

By: Audrey Fisher

**#4 – R024**

**Authorize TRS to Provide a Cost-of-Living Adjustment to Teacher Retirement System Retirees**

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature strongly urges the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas State Legislature to enact legislation that authorizes TRS to provide a permanent COLA to all eligible TRS retirees effective September 1, 2023.

BY: Scott Christensen, Sherry Hubbard, Paul Stempko, Barbara Williams, and Bobette Doerrie

**#5 - R001**

**Require a Criminal Background Check for CNAs and LVNs in Nursing Homes and Home Health Companies**

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to instruct Texas Health and Human Services (HHS) to implement a criminal background check to be repeated before CNAs and LVNs are recertified or before their license is renewed to work in nursing homes and home health companies.

By: Pat J. Porter, Rhonda Rogers, Barbara Aydtlett, and Jetta Roberts

**#6 – R022**

**Authorize a 13<sup>th</sup> Month Annuity Payment to Employees Retirement System (ERS) Retirees**

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature strongly urges the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas State Legislature to enact legislation that authorizes a one-time 13<sup>th</sup> month annuity payment to all ERS retirees effective September 1, 2023, (or as soon thereafter as actuarial soundness requirements are met) and that, going forward, monitors the Trust Fund's soundness for future pension benefit enhancement opportunities.

By: Scott Christensen, Sherry Hubbard, Paul Stempko, Cindy Jones, and Gary Gerstenhaber

**#7 – R042**

**Amend Family Code to Provide for a Grandparent Conservatorship and Support Bill**

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to amend the Family Code to provide for a Grandparent Conservatorship and Support Bill to ensure that the grandparent receives all court-ordered child support payments made for the support of the child.

By: Charles Scoma





**#8 – R037**

**Improve Access to Healthcare in Rural Texas for Older Texans**

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature passes legislation to improve access to healthcare in rural Texas for older Texans by providing additional funding to rural healthcare facilities and providing incentives for practices in rural locations.

By: Pat J. Porter

**#9 – R008**

**Establish Full Practice Authority (FPA) for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs)**

RESOLVED: That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature strongly recommends that the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature amends relevant portions of the State's Occupations Code by removing barriers, such as physician delegation requirements, that reduce or restrict the ability of APRNs to practice to the full extent of their training and education thereby granting APRNs Full Practice Authority under the exclusive licensure authority of the Texas Board of Nursing.

By: Viola Hebert, Barbara Aydlett, Betty Lee Streckfuss, Sue Wilson, and Mary Pat Smith

**#10 – R009**

**Increase the Maximum Rate of Home-Delivered Meals for Older Texans to \$10.00 with an Annual Cost-of-Living Adjustment**

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature increase the maximum rate of home-delivered meals to \$10.00 per meal with an annual cost-of-living adjustment.

By: Bert Simon, Jetta Roberts, Pat J. Porter, and Al Campbell



Officer Swearing-In (l to r) Barbara Aydlett, Deputy Speaker Pro Tem; Bobette Doerrie, Secretary; Rhonda Rogers, Speaker; Sherry Hubbard, Speaker Pro Tem; Wayne Merrill, Comptroller

July 20, 2021, Austin, Texas



# ***SUMMARY OF ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS***





## RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY TSHL MAY 2022

### *Top 10 Resolutions Bolded (not ranked)*

RES #	TITLE	AUTHOR(S)
<b>CRIMINAL JUSTICE</b>		
<b>R001 #5</b>	<b>Require a Criminal Background Check for CNAs and LVNs in Nursing Homes and Home Health Companies</b>	Porter, R. Rogers, Aydlett, J. Roberts
R002	Provide Support for Public Volunteer Programs that Engage Older Adults in Incarceration Facilities	Peters, Henderson
<b>HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES</b>		
<b>R003 #1</b>	<b>Increase the Personal Needs Allowance for Medicaid Residents in Nursing Homes</b>	J. Roberts, Brazeal, Hubbard, Wilson, Christensen, R. Rogers, Dimmick
R004	Increase Medicaid Reimbursement to Improve the Quality and Financial Stability of Texas Nursing Home Care	Wilson, Christensen, D. Roberts
R005	Clarify Rights to Visit Older Texans in Institutions	Scoma
R006	Require Nursing Facilities to Have Alzheimer's Certification if Using Locked Doors	Scoma
R007	Establish a Taskforce to Provide Enhanced Oversight to All Home Healthcare Agencies	Hebert
<b>R008 #9</b>	<b>Establish Full Practice Authority (FPA) for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs)</b>	Hebert, Aydlett, Streckfuss, Wilson, Smith
<b>R009 #10</b>	<b>Increase the Maximum Rate of Home-Delivered Meals for Older Texans to \$10.00 with an Annual Cost-of-Living Adjustment</b>	Simon, J. Roberts, Porter, Campbell
R010	Integration of Geriatric Education in Texas into All Medical Areas of Study	Porter, Streckfuss
<b>HUMAN SERVICES</b>		
R011	Provide 24/7 Free Automated English/Spanish Daily Senior Check-In Call Service Program	Blackmon, Garcia
R012	Ensure Full Participation in Use of the STEAR Program for Emergency Management Statewide	Jones, Christensen, Hubbard, Brazeal
R013	Encourage HHS to Develop Family Caregiver Training to Prevent Out-of-Home Placements	Porter, Scoma, deJong-Davis
R014	Provide Information on Free or Low-Cost Phones for Long-Term Care Nursing Facility (LTCNF) Residents	B. Doerrie, Dimmick
R015	Increase Funding of the Texas Lifespan Respite Care Program (TLRCP)	Wilson, Aydlett, Stempko, Sandoval
R016	Permit Qualified Spouses and Legally Responsible Relatives to Serve as Paid Caregivers and Increase the Base Wage of All Paid Caregivers to \$15.00 per hour with an Annual Cost-of-Living Adjustment	Simon
R017	Fund Additional Positions within the Texas Workforce Commission's Older Blind Independent Living Program	Hubbard, B. Doerrie, Smith, Porter
R018	Partner with Business and Educational Entities to Strengthen Existing Learning and Support New Innovative Training for Older Texans	Hebert

<b>PENSIONS, INVESTMENTS, INSURANCE, &amp; FINANCIAL SERVICES</b>		
R019	Increase Reimbursement of Insurance for Rural Volunteer Firefighters by Reinstating Fireworks Tax	Scoma
R020	Amend House Bill 1129 on Deceptive Advertising Practices When Obtaining Reverse Mortgages	Scoma
R021	Texas Insurance Commission to Develop a Comprehensive Homeowners Insurance Program Which Includes Supplemental Flood Coverage	Scoma
<b>R022 #6</b>	<b>Authorize a 13<sup>th</sup> Month Annuity Payment to Employees Retirement System (ERS) Retirees</b>	Christensen, Hubbard, Stempko, Jones, Gerstenhaber
R023	Establish a Legacy Funding Plan for the State Law Enforcement and Custodial Officer Supplemental Retirement Fund (LECOSRF) Administered by ERS	Christensen, Hubbard, Stempko, Jones, Gerstenhaber
<b>R024 #4</b>	<b>Authorize TRS to Provide a Cost-of-Living Adjustment to Teacher Retirement System Retirees</b>	Christensen, Hubbard, Stempko, Williams, B. Doerrie
<b>RETIREMENT &amp; AGING</b>		
R025	Require Backup Emergency Generator Power Source in Assisted Living Facilities	D. Timmerman, L. Timmerman
R026	State to Require Hospital, Clinic, and Doctor Pricing Transparency	Slagle
R027	Extension of Senior Homestead Property Tax Exemptions	Scoma
R028	Require Relocation Funds to be used for Recruiting and Training/Retraining Individuals 60 or Older for Returning to the Workforce	Coupe, Kulig
R029	Designate a Portion of the Older Americans' Act Funding and State Matching Funds for Healthy Aging Programs	D. Roberts
R030	Provide a Discount on Texas' Tolling Entities for Texans 65 and Older	Simon
R031	Amend the Texas Transportation Code to Simplify the Process for Older Texans to Convert their Texas Driver License to a Texas ID When They Choose to Stop Driving	Taylor
<b>RURAL - URBAN</b>		
R032	Coordinate Funding for a Seamless and Integrated Transportation System	Porter
R033	Support a Meaningful Increase in Funding for Rural Transit Districts	Scoma
R034	Enact Permanent Daylight Savings Time	Henderson
R035	Seek a Waiver to Allow Food Stamps to be Used for Pet Food under SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)	Scoma
R036	Increase the Maximum Property Tax Rate Allowable for Rural ESDs	Christensen, R. Rogers, Henderson
<b>R037 #8</b>	<b>Improve Access to Healthcare in Rural Texas for Older Texans</b>	Porter
<b>STATE AFFAIRS</b>		
R038	Establish a Texas State Veterans Home in Brazos County	Slagle, Campbell, Johnson, Coupe, Henderson
R039	Restoration of Gaming Activities on Texas Native American Reservations	Campbell
R040	Voter Election to Authorize Local Option Elections to Allow Casinos	Campbell
<b>R041 #2</b>	<b>Child-Related Income Follows the Child</b>	Bristol, Hubbard, Christensen
<b>R042 #7</b>	<b>Amend Family Code to Provide for a Grandparent Conservatorship and Support Bill</b>	Scoma
R043	Make Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Benefits Accessible to all Kinship Placements	Bristol, Hubbard, Christensen
R044	Rebuild the Texas Department on Aging as the State Unit on Aging	Porter
R045	Lower the Cost of Fishing Licenses for Texans 65 and Older	Hubbard, L. Timmerman, Munoz
<b>R046 #3</b>	<b>Increase for Readability of the Application and Vote-by-Mail Documentation to Reduce the Rejection Rate</b>	Fisher

R047	Enact Legislation to Review Senate Bill 1 (SB1) Voting Procedures	Henderson, Brown, Andrews
R048	Amend Texas Administrative Code, Title 26, Chapter 554, to Require Quarterly Inspection of Cash Flow Statements	Mitchell
R049	Continue Funding Darrell K Royal Texas Alzheimer's Initiative Supporting Texas Alzheimer's Research and Care Consortium (TARCC)	Wilson, Aydlett, Smith, Stempko
R050	Allow Texas Citizens to Vote on Expansion of Medicaid	Stempko, Aydlett, E. Rogers
R051	Enact a Carefully Crafted, Well-Regulated Medical Cannabis Law to Allow Licensed Medical Professionals to Legally Prescribe Medical Cannabis	Stempko, Streckfuss, Wilson, Smith, Nixon, Burrell
<b>UTILITIES &amp; NATURAL RESOURCES</b>		
R052	Provide Full Funding to the Emergency 9-1-1 Service Program for Maintenance and Improvement	Scoma
R053	Increase Funding for the Examination, Exploration, and Support for Texas Desalination	Porter
R054	Require Regional Councils of Government to Work Together to Become Designated as International Dark Sky Sites	J. Doerrie, Brown, Peters

## **NOTES**



19<sup>th</sup> Silver-Haired Legislators in Training Session

# ***ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS***

**TSHL PRIORITY #5**

**By:** Pat J. Porter, Rhonda Rogers, Barbara Aydlett, and Jetta Roberts

No. R001

**Committee:** Criminal Justice

**Require a Criminal Background Check for CNAs and LVNs  
in Nursing Homes and Home Health Companies**

A RESOLUTION TO: Require a criminal background check of Certified Nurse Aides (CNAs) and Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVNs) with each recertification/license renewal, which would reveal any reports of substantiated offenses, such as physical/emotional abuse, neglect, financial abuse, unlawful restraint, or any other failure to perform "duty of care," occurring during the two-year timeframe between each recertification/license renewal period.

WHEREAS, Journalistic investigations have revealed that the state has recertified hundreds of nursing-home aides with serious criminal histories; and,

WHEREAS, In Texas, CNAs and LVNs are required to meet certain educational/skills competency requirements every two years for recertification/license renewal. Currently, state health officials are required to perform a state criminal background check when initially certifying nurse aides and LVN licensure, but they do NOT require subsequent criminal background checks. These state DPS background checks may not cover any cases that occurred after the initial check or in other states; however, SB 271 was passed in 87<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature requiring a background check for persons working in assisted living facilities; and,

WHEREAS, Analysis of government data showed that abuse in Texas' nursing homes and similar facilities is nearly four times the national average, and violent criminals are often left to care for some of our most vulnerable; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to instruct Texas Health and Human Services (HHS) to implement a criminal background check to be repeated before CNAs and LVNs are recertified or before their license is renewed to work in nursing homes and home health companies.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 14, 2022, by the Criminal Justice Committee.



Joe Henderson, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 3, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Chair

ATTEST: 

Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Health and Human Resources

**Provide Support for Public Volunteer Programs  
that Engage Older Adults in Incarceration Facilities**

A RESOLUTION TO: Increase public attention and support for non-profit and faith-based jail and prison programs that aid older adult members of the Texas prison population suffering from mild cognitive impairment, Alzheimer’s disease, and other forms of dementia to improve healthcare outcomes through oral storytelling, lyrics writing, and illustrating.

WHEREAS, The total Texas prison population declined by 3% this decade, but the number of inmates ages fifty-five and older increased by 65%, according to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice data. Older adult Texans account for about 27,000 inmates, (one-eighth of the population), but require nearly one-half of the Criminal Justice System’s medical costs; and,

WHEREAS, Cost-saving measures such as telemedicine and discounted pharmaceutical drugs are being used, but experts say that systemic change like paroling more aging inmates and better treatments for mental illness or substance abuse are needed to curtail expenses. Project reports have shown that oral, written, and artistic renditions of past traumas are useful in treating mental illness; and,

WHEREAS, Conditions of cognitive impairment significantly increase with age, and the social and psychological effects of memory loss can cause depression and anxiety. Incorporating artistic expression in programs for seniors which use retired professionals such as teachers as volunteers would allow older inmates with these chronic degenerative diseases to realize a wide range of health benefits not currently provided that could lead to early paroles; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to increase public attention and provide support for volunteer programs that engage older adults in incarceration facilities in literary and artistic endeavors to improve their quality of life.

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 2, 2022, by the Health and Human Resources Committee.

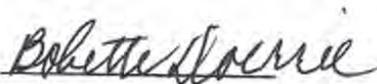


Paul Stempko, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 4, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST: 

Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

**TSHL PRIORITY #1**

**By:** Jetta Roberts, Sharon Brazeal, Sherry Hubbard, Sue Wilson,  
Scott Christensen, Rhonda Rogers, and Peggy Dimmick

No. R003

**Committee:** Health & Human Resources

**Increase the Personal Needs Allowance for Medicaid Residents in Nursing Homes**

A RESOLUTION TO: Increase the Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) for Medicaid residents in nursing homes.

WHEREAS, The Texas Human Resources Code (“Code”) provides for a monthly Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) for Medicaid residents of nursing homes licensed under Chapter 242 of the Health and Safety Code. The PNA is the amount of a recipient’s income that a recipient in an institutional setting may retain to pay for basic personal needs items not covered by Medicaid – such as clothing, shoes, certain toiletries/hygiene/supplement products, certain incontinence products, hair-cutting/grooming services, stationery and postage, subscriptions to reading materials, snacks from the home’s vending machine, hobby supplies, and cell service; and,

WHEREAS, The Code set this allowance at not less than \$60.00/month in 2005, and it has not been increased, even incrementally, for 16 years (2005-2021). Analysis of the Consumer Price Index (December 2021 CPI-W) for the 16-year period (2005-2021) shows that for an individual to have the equivalent purchasing power of \$60 per month in 2005 for these same items in 2021 they must now spend approximately \$85.00; and,

WHEREAS, The PNA covers the cost of basics not covered by Medicaid and allows an individual to make limited personal choices while boosting their self-esteem and ability to remain positively engaged with life. It provides a modicum of dignity for older Texans who live with serious medical conditions and challenges as it enhances the quality of life for these individuals and reduces negative factors on their mental health; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver Haired Legislature strongly urges the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to increase the Personal Needs Allowance for Medicaid residents to no less than \$85.00 per month, and that going forward the PNA be indexed with the CPI-W on a biennial basis.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 11, 2022, by the Health and Human Resources Committee.



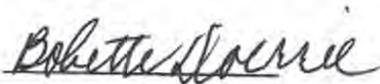
Paul Stempko, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 5, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Health & Human Resources

**Increase Medicaid Reimbursement to Improve the Quality and Financial Stability of Texas Nursing Home Care**

A RESOLUTION TO: Improve the quality of care and quality of life of individuals whose healthcare is at least partially paid for by Medicaid through increased Medicaid reimbursement to nursing home providers to support talented staff recruitment, retention, and development, as well as updated technology and capital improvements to sustain access to quality nursing home care for individuals in rural and other underserved communities. Quality care and continued nursing home viability are both at stake.

WHEREAS, In November 2020, the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) Provider Finance Department estimated that in the 2022-2023 biennium, a funding increase of \$571 million in state funds is required (approximately \$1.5 billion total requirement) to meet the cost of caring for the Medicaid-dependent elderly and disabled Texans living in nursing homes, many of whom also live with cognitive impairment, behavioral needs, and/or emotional, spiritual, and social needs. In Texas, 5 of 8 nursing home residents (63%) are Medicaid patients, so underfunding of this significant portion of residents puts both quality of care and long-term financial viability of nursing homes in jeopardy; and,

WHEREAS, This significant underfunding makes it impossible for Medicaid providers to offer adequate wages and benefits to attract and retain needed staffing levels; provide ongoing professional development to optimize outcomes for residents and career paths for staff; encourage a culture of full engagement for residents, employees, and resident family members; upgrade medical equipment; renovate existing homes; and test and implement new models of resident care; and,

WHEREAS, The current managed-care environment needs to align the financial incentives of both managed care and healthcare providers with appropriate staffing, needed access to care, streamlined incentives, and regulations which focus on improvement and sustainability of quality outcomes; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to increase funds paid to Medicaid-certified nursing homes, combined with a payment methodology that ensures stable and sufficient funding including quality-based financial incentives and accountability by managed-care organizations and care providers to Medicaid residents, focuses regulations on resident care, and maintains needed access to long-term care.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 11, 2022, by the Health and Human Resources Committee.



Paul Stempko, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 3, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST: 

Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

By: Charles Scoma

No. R005

Committee: Health & Human Resources

**Clarify Rights to Visit Older Texans in Institutions**

A RESOLUTION TO: Address definition clarification of constitutional amendment provisions.

WHEREAS, In 2020 and 2021, Texas, along with other states and nations, experienced a health emergency known as COVID-19. Many institutions housing persons in Texas that are 65 years and older implemented policies denying visitation of family members, caregivers, and the clergy with its residents. Such policies placed the residents in a state of isolation affecting the mental health and emotional stress of the residents; and,

WHEREAS, Texas voters approved a constitutional amendment on November 2, 2021, establishing a right for residents of certain facilities to designate an essential caregiver for in-person visitation by a vote of 87.87% for and 12.13% against; and,

WHEREAS, The approval of the constitutional amendment included a provision (b) which states "*The legislature by general law may provide for guidelines for a facility or center described by Subsection (a) of this section to follow in establishing essential caregiver visitation policies and procedures;*" now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to support legislation to amend the Texas Human Resources Code Chapter 102, Section 242.002 "DEFINITIONS" to include "*facility*" in the definition of "*Institution*" and Section 102.003 under the (a) "RIGHTS OF THE ELDERLY" and include the terms "*caregiver, family members, physicians, and clergy who may not be prohibited in-person visitations.*"

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 2, 2022, by the Health and Human Resources Committee.



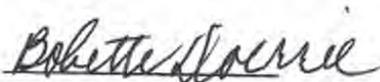
Paul Stempko, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 3, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Health & Human Resources

**Require Nursing Facilities to Have Alzheimer’s Certification if Using Locked Doors**

A RESOLUTION TO: Strengthen language to Health and Safety Code §242.040(b) to require nursing facilities that use locked doors to restrict a resident’s exit from a distinct part or all of the building to have a special certification known as an Alzheimer’s certification.

WHEREAS, Texas nursing facilities now have an option to obtain and maintain an Alzheimer’s certification license. Certification requires the facility to provide specially trained staff and person-centered care for residents with dementia. Many nursing facilities that use locked doors to control movement of residents with dementia are not Alzheimer’s certified; and,

WHEREAS, An estimated 48% of nursing facility residents have some form of dementia (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). The number of residents with dementia is expected to triple by 2030. In Texas only 36 (3%) nursing facilities statewide have the Alzheimer’s certification, but long-term care ombudsmen have identified over two hundred nursing facilities with locked units that are not Alzheimer’s certified; and,

WHEREAS, Locked units should never be allowed as a substitute for proper staffing and supervision. Residents who are clinically appropriate for placement in a locked unit require specialized care to meet their needs. Alzheimer’s certification provides essential elements of good dementia care -- staffing, training, and activities. Certification will help ensure that residents with dementia are appropriately placed and cared for and not just kept behind a locked door; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature passes legislation strengthening the language in Health and Safety Code §242.040 to ensure that nursing facilities using locked doors obtain an Alzheimer’s certification.

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 2, 2022, by the Health and Human Resources Committee.



Paul Stempko, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 4, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Health & Human Resources

**Establish a Taskforce to Provide Enhanced Oversight to All Home Healthcare Agencies**

A RESOLUTION TO: Ensure that in-home care required by older adults choosing to age in place is top quality, safe, and provided by well-trained caregivers.

WHEREAS, Aging is a natural part of life that should be readily accepted, attended to, and integrated with the many other elements that ultimately construct and define lives of older adults. Older adults seeking in-home care need to have their health conditions, ailments, chronic conditions, and emotional and physical activities attended to via high-quality levels of assistive-long-term care, and that the various activities and tasks are provided by caregivers who treat them with the utmost care, compassion, and respect; and

WHEREAS, In-home healthcare helps older adults live independently for as long as possible, even with an illness or injury. The wide range of services available through in-home care, such as physical therapy, occupational therapy, nursing care, and assistance with activities of daily living (ADLs) can often delay the need for higher cost, long-term nursing home care or avoid readmission to the hospital. The full complement of services required by the client's condition should be professionally monitored to ensure they receive the proper and appropriate care, delivered by properly certified and/or well-trained personnel, and their health and well-being is respected and upheld at all times; and

WHEREAS, While some insurance provides coverage for home-healthcare, if prescribed by a physician, not all home health costs are covered by private health insurance or Medicare. Insurers may also require that the home health agency meets certain standards in order to qualify. Notwithstanding, high quality in-home care requires eliminating or mitigating challenges such as environmental hazards/infection, agency and family caregiver communications and handoffs, lack of education, and training for family caregivers and clients; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature strongly recommends that the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature establishes a taskforce to provide enhanced oversight to certified and non-certified home healthcare agencies, including education and training to agency and family caregivers to ensure safe, top quality, in-home care for older adults.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 13, 2022, by the Health and Human Resources Committee.



Paul Stempko, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 3, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST: 

Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

**TSHL PRIORITY #9**

**By:** Viola Hebert, Barbara Aydlett, Betty Lee Streckfuss, Sue Wilson,  
and Mary Pat Smith

No. R008

**Committee:** Health and Human Resources

**Establish Full Practice Authority (FPA) for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs)**

A RESOLUTION TO: Address Texans' need for efficient access to comprehensive, cost-effective care, shorter wait times for care, and improved health outcomes by allowing APRNs to utilize their knowledge, skills, and judgment to practice to the full extent of their education and training as mandated by statute.

WHEREAS, Texas has 172 counties classified as non-metropolitan or rural. Census reports indicate multifactor trends are driving the aging of rural communities. Older adults consistently represent an increasing percentage of rural populations over urban populations. The more rural the community, the harder it is to find people of caregiving age, whether family caregivers or paid aides. Thus, older adults face distinct healthcare and other challenges in these underserved areas; and,

WHEREAS, In 2017, Texas was ranked 34<sup>th</sup> healthiest state, and in 2021 that rank dropped to 42<sup>nd</sup> in health system performance. Studies show that in FPA states, APRNs are more likely to practice in rural and underserved areas and have improved the APRN workforce recruitment while meeting the highest care quality and safety standards. States that restrict or reduce APRNs' ability to practice according to their abilities through limiting licensure authority are more closely associated with geographic healthcare disparities, higher chronic disease burden, primary care shortages, higher costs of care, and lower standing on national health rankings. Removing barriers, such as delegation agreements with physicians, will allow APRNs to take on the challenge, work as respected and valued members of the healthcare team with physicians, and ease some of the many stresses of the healthcare system; and,

WHEREAS, nearly half the United States, as well as the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and all branches of the military, have permanently done away with this requirement. Decades worth of peer-reviewed studies have found that APRNs improve access to healthcare and have similar or better results for the conditions they treat when compared to physicians; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature strongly recommends that the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature amends relevant portions of the State's Occupations Code by removing barriers, such as physician delegation requirements, which reduce or restrict the ability of APRNs to practice to the full extent of their training and education thereby granting APRNs Full Practice Authority under the exclusive licensure authority of the Texas Board of Nursing.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 13, 2022, by the Health and Human Resources Committee.



Paul Stempko, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 3, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

**TSHL PRIORITY #10**

**By:** Bert Simon, Jetta Roberts, Pat J. Porter, and Albert Campbell

No. R009

**Committee:** Health & Human Resources

**Increase the Maximum Rate of Home-Delivered Meals for Older Texans  
to \$10.00 with an Annual Cost-of-Living Adjustment**

A RESOLUTION TO: Increase the maximum flat rate of home-delivered meals for older Texans administered by the Texas Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) from \$5.31 to \$10.00 with an annual cost-of-living adjustment.

WHEREAS, The State of Texas mandates that Texas Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) may only contract with providers of home-delivered meals for older Texans at the maximum rate of \$5.31 per meal. Texas Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are having difficulty finding providers of home-delivered meals at this rate as costs have increased beyond that rate; and,

WHEREAS, Even at current funding levels, maintaining the numbers now being served will be difficult, if not impossible, with the rising cost of food, food preparation, facilities used in preparation, delivery, and administrative costs plus the anticipated growth of the older population in Texas; and,

WHEREAS, The social contact of the person delivering meals daily is an important preventative to premature institutionalization and health-related emergencies; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature increases the maximum rate of home-delivered meals to \$10.00 per meal with an annual cost-of-living adjustment.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 13, 2022, by the Health and Human Resources Committee.



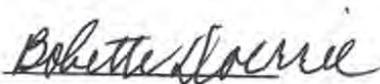
Paul Stempko, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 3, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Health & Human Resources

**Integration of Geriatric Education in Texas into all Medical Areas of Study**

A RESOLUTION TO: Integrate geriatrics education into areas of medical study governed by licensing or certifying authorities.

WHEREAS, The older adult population of Texans over sixty (60) years of age exceeds 5 million, and the number of practitioners of geriatrics is diminishing due to attrition and reluctance of physicians to accept Medicare patients as a result of increased government restraints and limited reimbursement by Medicare for geriatric services; and,

WHEREAS, This population is the most deserving, yet they are underserved by healthcare professionals who are seldom exposed to care of older adults other than in emergency experiences. Still, these healthcare providers are expected and trusted by their older adult patients to understand and treat their physical conditions. This often results in further mismanagement and/or misdiagnosis leading to additional complicated and resultant long-term care needs; and,

WHEREAS, The State of Texas adopted a State Health Plan (Aging Texas Well) beginning in 2005, and continuing today, indicating an understanding of the special needs of older adults, and considering them unique from other segments of the population to an extent that proper care cannot be offered by medical personnel who have little or no geriatric education while recognizing that, in fact, lack of specialized training can cause harm to this population; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to enact legislation that integrates geriatric education in Texas into all medical areas of study governed by licensing or certifying authorities.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 13, 2022, by the Health and Human Resources Committee.



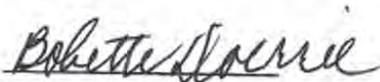
Paul Stempko, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 3, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Human Services

**Provide 24/7 Free Automated English/Spanish Daily Senior Check-In Call Service Program**

A RESOLUTION TO: Provide free and essential non-emergency statewide automated English/Spanish opt-in telephone service for a daily check-in call to Texas residents 65 or older to verify their well-being.

WHEREAS, Executive Order RP57 requires the establishment and implementation of a database to assist in the evacuation of special needs populations through the STEAR, 911, 211, Amber Alert, and Silver Alert programs in Texas. Mayors and county judges have the responsibility for emergency preparedness and response within their local jurisdictions (Emergency Management/Office of the Governor); and,

WHEREAS, Such programs have, in several Texas jurisdictions, successfully saved human lives by identifying the elderly, blind, deaf, disabled, or otherwise vulnerable Texans at risk of being left behind in the event of emergencies. There are many older Texans in other jurisdictions who may also benefit from a statewide automated English/Spanish daily check-in call to verify their well-being, especially those who live alone.

WHEREAS, Recent senior isolation statistics indicate that of the 2,601,886 seniors in Texas, 24.55% of them live alone. Over 22% of older Texans reside in rural areas with limited access to personal contact and who may not be aware of changing weather conditions or other unforeseen situations arising around their surroundings; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature passes legislation for a 24/7 free automated English/Spanish daily check-in call service program by adding this additional benefit for all older Texans to the already paid-for and operational established registry.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 11, 2022, by the Human Services Committee.



Barbara Williams, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 2, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST: 

Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

**Committee:** Rural - Urban

**Ensure Full Participation in Use of the STEAR Program for Emergency Management Statewide**

A RESOLUTION TO: Require full participation and statewide coverage using the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR) program.

WHEREAS, Executive Order RP57 requiring the establishment and implementation of a database to assist in the evacuation of special needs populations was issued on March 21, 2006. The STEAR program providing this capability was implemented and made available in 2013. In Texas, mayors and county judges have the responsibility for emergency preparedness and response within their local jurisdictions (Emergency Management/Office of the Governor). SB968 – 2021 (Subchapter B, Chapter 418, Government Code) defines the requirements of local jurisdictions for wellness checks on medically-fragile citizens in a disaster or emergency through the use of the registry; and,

WHEREAS, The STEAR program, in a number of jurisdictions (especially along the Gulf Coast), has successfully saved human lives by identifying elderly, blind, medically disabled, or otherwise vulnerable Texans at risk of being left behind in the event of an emergency. But a significant number of Texas jurisdictions are either unaware that the STEAR program exists or have elected not to utilize this lifesaving registry when it is already established, paid for, and operational. While several municipalities are STEAR members, only 85 of the 254 Texas counties are members (33.5%), and the STEAR map shows approximately 35-40% geographic coverage statewide (STEAR website 02/02/2022); and,

WHEREAS, Local jurisdictions (municipalities, counties) can employ the STEAR program either as a member/custodian or through an inter-jurisdictional agreement with a neighboring jurisdiction that is a member/custodian; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver Haired Legislature strongly urges the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to enact legislation ensuring full participation of Texas municipalities and counties in the STEAR program, either as a STEAR member/custodian or through an inter-jurisdictional agreement with a STEAR member/custodian. Exemptions would be granted only to those jurisdictions that satisfy the Executive Order RP57 requirement for “the establishment and implementation of a database to assist in the evacuation of special needs populations” and the requirements in SB968 through an already existing in-house system with established compliant procedures.

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 2, 2022, by the Rural – Urban Committee.



Sharon Brazeal, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 4, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST: 

Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Human Services

**Encourage HHS to Develop Family Caregiver Training to Prevent Out-of-Home Placements**

A RESOLUTION TO: Instruct Health and Human Services to develop an ongoing, proactive, community-based family caregiver training initiative focused on preventing out-of-home facility placement due to problematic behavioral challenges in adult children with intellectual and developmental disabilities and dementia through various interventions, including positive behavioral support strategies.

WHEREAS, About 6% of adults with an intellectual disability will be affected by some form of dementia after the age of 60 (with the percentage increasing with age); and for adults with Down Syndrome, studies show that at least 25% will be affected with dementia after age 40, and at least 50% to 70% will be affected with dementia after age 60; and

WHEREAS, There are an estimated 641,000 adults aged 60+ with cognitive and other disabilities (e.g., cerebral palsy, autism, epilepsy, traumatic brain injury). This number is projected to double to 1,242,794 by 2030, coinciding with the aging population of baby boomers born between 1946 and 1964. Families are still the primary caregivers for adults with developmental disabilities and are themselves aging. About 76% of individuals of all ages with developmental disabilities reside at home, and

WHEREAS, Many adults with an intellectual disability live in community settings, mostly at home with support from families, friends, and service providers; and with advanced age, many experience age-related conditions and diseases, including dementia. Care and support for adults with intellectual disabilities affected by dementia can be primarily provided within the community, typically at home, and appropriate services can prevent institutionalization; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature encourages and strongly recommends that the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature enacts legislation to instruct HHS to develop an ongoing, proactive, community-based family caregiver training initiative focused on preventing out-of-home facility placement.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 11, 2022, by the Human Services Committee.



Barbara Williams, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 2, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Human Services

**Provide Information on Free or Low-Cost Phones for Long-Term Care Nursing Facility (LTCNF) Residents**

A RESOLUTION TO: Provide information to acquire a low-cost telephone for residents of long-term care nursing facilities.

WHEREAS, The restrictions on family visits imposed by attempts to limit exposure to Covid-19 revealed the vital importance of providing means of communication between residents and their families and other care providers. These restrictions led to the decline of mental, physical, and emotional health of residents of LTCNFs, impacted their dignity and independence, and deterred private communication for mental health counseling and communicating needs to family members and doctors; and,

WHEREAS, While SB 25 ensures that every resident can designate an essential caregiver whose visits cannot be restricted, not all residents have visitors who can regularly visit. Even though the Texas Administrative Code Title 26, Part 1, Chapter 554, Subchapter E, Rule 554.414 states that residents have the right to have reasonable access to the use of a telephone other than a pay phone, residents of LTCNFs may be unable to have ready access to privacy with facility phones and could be at greater risk of retaliation by a facility staff person if the resident is unable to voice a complaint using a telephone without being overheard; and,

WHEREAS, Bringing a facility phone to a resident is additional work for nurses and nurse aides and can be difficult for a resident or a family member to make such a request. Residents need access to telephones that are easy to operate and accommodate any disability they may have. There are phones provided by existing programs, such as the Lifeline Program for Low-Income Consumers and services for adaptive phones with modifications for a person with hearing or visual impairment, available at no cost to the facility or to the resident; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature passes a bill that requires LTCNFs to provide a resident, at the time of admission into the facility and annually thereafter, with information about free resources for telephones and free or low-cost cell phone service plans for qualifying residents.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 11, 2022, by the Human Services Committee.



Barbara Williams, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 3, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

**Committee:** Human Services

**Increase Funding of the Texas Lifespan Respite Care Program (TLRCP)**

A RESOLUTION TO: Increase funding of the Texas Lifespan Respite Care Program (TLRCP).

WHEREAS, According to AARP State Data Statistics, in 2017 more than 3.4 million family caregivers in Texas helped their loved ones live independently, keeping them out of costly care facilities. The unpaid work, based on \$12.10 per hour for unpaid Texas caregivers, totals about \$35 billion annually, greater than the annual Medicaid budget for Texas (from both state and federal funds). While rewarding, caregiving can be very demanding and very stressful. Caregivers themselves are aging; they are often employed fulltime or parttime while providing care, making it extremely difficult to meet their own needs for rest, exercise, a healthy diet, and spiritual and social engagement. If caregivers ignore their own needs, they risk developing health problems or burning out, being unable to care for their loved ones; and,

WHEREAS, Annually, the TLRCP currently offers short-term respite care resources to approximately 600 unpaid family caregivers who do not receive respite services through other programs and who care for a person of any age living with a chronic health condition or disability, providing them a brief period of relief or rest targeted to the need of the caregiver; and,

WHEREAS, The respite-care program’s annual budget has not been increased from \$500,000 since the initiative began in 2009, yet the number of Texans ages 65 to 84 continues to increase. It makes sense for the State to invest in respite care for a larger number of unpaid family caregivers due to the fact that these family caregivers provide a positive economic impact to Texas, and family caregivers help keep loved ones at home and out of costly institutions. This would give these caregivers a desperately needed break to take care of themselves, recharge, and continue their most important job of caring for their loved one; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to increase the level of funding to the Texas Lifespan Respite Care Program to bring the resource in line with the level of need and enable family caregivers to continue to support their loved one at home for as long as appropriate.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 11, 2022, by the Human Services Committee.



Barbara Williams, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 3, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Human Services

**Permit Qualified Spouses and Legally Responsible Relatives to Serve as Paid Caregivers and Increase the Base Wage of all Paid Caregivers to \$15.00 Per Hour with an Annual Cost-of-Living Adjustment**

A RESOLUTION TO: Increase wages for direct service workers who provide community-based long-term services to older Texans and those with disabilities enrolled in State-funded Title XIX (Medicaid) and Title XX (Social Security) programs and to permit spouses and legally responsible relatives to serve as paid caregivers.

WHEREAS, Direct service workers who provide Federal Title XIX and Title XX services to older Texans in their homes have a state-mandated base wage capped at \$8.11 per hour as mandated by the Texas State Legislature; and,

WHEREAS, Texas has a critical shortage of direct service workers, a growing gap between demand and supply, and allowing older Texans to age in their homes will save Texas taxpayers money versus having them institutionalized; and,

WHEREAS, Spouses and legally responsible relatives are prohibited by Texas State regulations from serving as paid caregivers in some programs causing patients to be institutionalized in facilities costing much more than home care; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature permits qualified spouses and legally responsible relatives to serve as paid caregivers (direct service workers), and all paid direct service workers be paid a base wage of \$15.00 per hour with an annual cost-of-living adjustment.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 11, 2022, by the Human Services Committee.



Barbara Williams, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 3, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Human Services

**Fund Additional Positions within the Texas Workforce Commission’s Older Blind Independent Living Program**

A RESOLUTION TO: Fund additional positions within the Texas Workforce Commission’s Older Blind Independent Living Program.

WHEREAS, There are currently over 500,000 Texans over the age of 55 classified as legally blind, a number that, over the next 15 years, is expected to increase by 60% to more than 800,000; and,

WHEREAS, Older persons who experience vision loss have difficulty performing normal daily living activities like cooking, cleaning, shopping, doing laundry, reading their mail, and paying bills. They also have a higher risk of falling and experiencing injury, depression, and poor general health. They need to receive one-on-one services to help them adjust to their vision loss and remain in their homes rather than having to move into nursing homes. Yet less than 5% of these individuals are presently receiving the vital services they need; and,

WHEREAS, Currently only 16 trained specialists are employed in the Texas Workforce Commission’s Older Blind Independent Living program to serve all these older Texans statewide who desperately need these services, let alone the projected additional number of older persons who will experience vision loss as more and more “Baby Boomers” join this population. Most of these seniors would prefer to remain living as independently as possible in their own homes; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature calls upon the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to adequately expand services to older blind Texans by funding additional positions within the TWC Older Blind Independent Living program.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 11, 2022, by the Human Services Committee.



Barbara Williams, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 3, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST: 

Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Human Services

**Partner with Business and Educational Entities to Strengthen Existing Learning and Support New Innovative Training for Older Texans**

A RESOLUTION TO: Provide training designed for older adults on mobile computing devices (e.g., iPad, tablet, etc.) to enable them to maintain or improve functions such as assisting with everyday living activities, improving mental /cognitive abilities, and improving general health and well-being.

WHEREAS, Technology now supports or streamlines many day-to-day activities, and mobile technology devices are becoming increasingly popular. The rapid development of technological devices is on a parallel trajectory alongside the aging of populations. This creates a perfect opportunity for technology to assist older people in essential everyday tasks, such as financial planning, shopping, and connecting with family and friends, as well as achieving cognitive stimulation by having quick and easy access to information on the Internet. New applications in technology have the capability to provide timely interventions with healthcare providers and support systems to assist older adults in keeping healthy and living longer independent lives; and,

WHEREAS, Teaching older adults the benefits and advantages of using digital devices may serve to bridge the technological gap across generations. Reportedly, studies have shown older adults are slower to adopt new technologies than younger adults, but they will do so if those technologies appear to have value -- for example, to maintain their quality of life. To make technology more age-friendly, it is important to understand the advantages and disadvantages older adults perceive in using it and to design training specifically suitable for this population; and,

WHEREAS, The advantages of being trained in the uses of technology will serve to improve the quality of life for a broad spectrum of older adults whether using at home, at work, and/or for healthcare purposes; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature promotes and strongly recommends that the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature issues legislation to partner with business and educational entities to strengthen existing digital/technology learning programs and support the development of new innovative training models for non-traditional students, recognizing that training older adults requires more time, practice, and cognitive support to achieve learning gains.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 11, 2022, by the Human Services Committee.



Barbara Williams, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 3, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST: 

Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Pensions, Investments, Insurance, & Financial Services

**Increase Reimbursement of Insurance for Rural Volunteer Firefighters by Reinstating Fireworks Tax**

A RESOLUTION TO: Address the need to increase the insurance coverage for rural volunteer firefighters and to reinstate the 2% special tax on the sale of fireworks to help fund the increased coverage.

WHEREAS, The 77<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature passed House Bill 3667 in 2001 creating the Rural Volunteer Fire Department Insurance Program. The program reimburses eligible volunteer fire departments for the purchase of workers' compensation, death, and disability insurance. Funds for the program were from a 2% tax on the retail sale of fireworks. Under Government Code, CH. 614, Sub-Chapter F, money from this account was to be directed to rural volunteer fire departments. SB 761 in 2015 eliminated the 2% tax on all retail fireworks sales and replaced the revenue funds from the State's general revenue because lawmakers stated the 2% tax did not generate enough money to cover the cost of administering the tax collection from individual retailers of fireworks; and

WHEREAS, In 2019, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) said 70% of all fire departments were volunteers, and 9% of the volunteer firefighters in the U.S. are over 60 years old (109,530 firefighters). Over the last 40 years, the number of volunteer firefighters serving their communities has dropped, and the average age of volunteer fire fighters has increased significantly according to the NFPA. Approximately half (49 percent) of the volunteer firefighters are with small, rural fire departments that protect fewer than 2,500 people and have the highest percentage of firefighters aged 50 and older (32 percent). When age groups of firefighters were examined between 1998–2019, the 60 and over age group has more than doubled; and

WHEREAS, With the increasing fire season in Texas creating an increase in local emergencies, more volunteers are needed. Many of the rural fire districts in Texas also encompass heavily wooded areas, including national forests. If volunteer firefighters are not available to stop small wildfires, the fires quickly grow. And the injury risk to volunteer firefighters grows as well. The Rural Volunteer Fire Department Insurance Program as of 2021, will reimburse 100% of the actual cost of eligible insurance coverage up to a maximum of \$175 per fire department member but has not been increased since 2018; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, Since volunteers reduce the need to hire and pay salaried firefighters, which saves local governments money, the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to support legislation that increases the insurance coverage to a maximum of \$200 per volunteer fire department member and reimposes the 2% special tax on the sale of fireworks with the provision that the collection of the tax be imposed on the wholesaler of fireworks rather than the retail sale of fireworks in Texas thus eliminating the requirement to fund this program from the State's general revenue funds.

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 2, 2022, by the Pensions, Investments, Insurance, & Financial Services Committee.



Gary Gerstenhaber, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 4, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

**Committee:** Pensions, Investments, Insurance, & Financial Services

**Amend House Bill 1129 on Deceptive Advertising Practices  
When Obtaining Reverse Mortgages**

A RESOLUTION TO: Address a growing concern for companies in the mortgage industry. The reverse mortgage industry lenders are under the microscope for false, misleading, or deceptive advertising.

WHEREAS, Texas was founded on homestead rights and the ability to protect one’s home at all costs. Only seniors 62 and older can apply for reverse mortgages which will generate ready cash up to two-thirds of the value of the property. Some reasons for considering a reverse mortgage may be declining health or other personal matters that may require homeowners to seek care in assisted living facilities or nursing homes or to move from their current property; and,

WHEREAS, Texas House Bill (HB) 1129 is an act which became law on September 1, 2021, and relates to false, misleading, or deceptive advertising made in connection with reverse mortgage loan agreements. This bill specifically is designed to rein in what it determined to be an initially overbroad application of abuse; and,

WHEREAS, The problem with this legislation (HB1129) is that it was too open-ended. It really did not have a start time or a stop time for an offense which makes it difficult for older Texans to litigate abuses under the law. This bill does not include mailers which try to apply time-sensitivity to getting a reverse mortgage, advertising using “eagle” imagery that is evocative of a government document, or describing a reverse mortgage as a government benefit; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to amend House Bill 1129 by including language that ensures older Texans are protected from misleading advertising practices and establishes timelines for litigation while maintaining the consumer-protection language contained in the current legislation.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 12, 2022, by the Pensions, Investments, Insurance, & Financial Services Committee.



Gary Gerstenhaber, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 2, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

**Committee:** Pensions, Investments, Insurance, & Financial Services

**Texas Insurance Commission to Develop a Comprehensive Homeowners Insurance Program Which Includes Supplemental Flood Coverage**

A RESOLUTION TO: Urge the Texas Legislature to request the Texas Insurance Commission to create an insurance plan for all persons now required to purchase separate policies for wind, flood, and conventional homeowner coverage.

WHEREAS, The cost of separate coverages is significantly higher than that usually associated with combined risk coverage. As a non-partisan issue, this resolution can save taxpayers billions of dollars; and,

WHEREAS, A home is frequently the most significant asset older Texans have. Many of those homes are not currently considered to be in hazard flood zones but may require flood insurance in the future; and,

WHEREAS, Flood insurance has a property-value limit resulting in some homes being significantly under-insured. Some insurance companies frequently attempt to shift the responsibility for indemnification to the other insurers (as happened in Mississippi and Louisiana after Katrina) resulting in long delays or outright denial of claims; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to request the Texas Insurance Commission to develop recommendations for a comprehensive homeowners' insurance program which includes supplemental flood coverage.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 12, 2022, by the Pensions, Investments, Insurance, & Financial Services Committee.



Gary Gerstenhaber, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 2, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

**TSHL PRIORITY #6**

**By:** Scott Christensen, Sherry Hubbard, Paul Stempko, Cindy Jones, and Gary Gerstenhaber

No. R022

**Committee:** Pensions, Investments, Insurance, & Financial Services

**Authorize a 13<sup>th</sup> Month Annuity Payment to Employees Retirement System (ERS) Retirees**

A RESOLUTION TO: Provide a one-time 13<sup>th</sup> month annuity payment to ERS retirees.

WHEREAS, The passage of SB321 (2021) committed long-term Legacy Funding to return the ERS Pension Trust Fund to actuarial soundness and, ultimately, to a fully funded status. SB321 also created a new and much more secure/sound pension tier for new ERS-covered employees hired after August 31, 2022. The ERS Pension Trust Fund has gone from a “never” full-funding period with a projected depletion date of 2061 in FY 2020 to a projected 33 years to fully fund (FY 2021) with projected actuarial soundness (full funding of less than 31 years) in the very near future; and,

WHEREAS, No benefit enhancement (permanent Cost-of-Living-Adjustment/COLA or one-time 13<sup>th</sup> month annuity payment) has been granted to ERS retirees since 2001 due to the continuing underfunded status of the ERS Pension Trust, while the Consumer Price Index (CPI - W), measuring inflation, increased by 58% during the period of 2001-2021; and,

WHEREAS, Some relief to ERS retirees (who both contributed to and earned their pensions) is necessary, appropriate, and long overdue; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature strongly urges the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas State Legislature to enact legislation that authorizes a one-time 13<sup>th</sup> month annuity payment to all ERS retirees effective September 1, 2023, (or as soon thereafter as actuarial soundness requirements are met) and that, going forward, monitors the Trust Fund’s soundness for future pension benefit enhancement opportunities.

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 2, 2022, by the Pensions, Investments, Insurance, & Financial Services Committee.



Gary Gerstenhaber, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 4, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST: 

Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

By: Scott Christensen, Sherry Hubbard, Paul Stempko, Cindy Jones, and Gary Gerstenhaber

No. R023

Committee: Pensions, Investments, Insurance, & Financial Services

**Establish a Legacy Funding Plan for the State Law Enforcement and Custodial Officer Supplemental Retirement Fund (LECOSRF) Administered by ERS**

A RESOLUTION TO: Establish a legacy/supplemental funding appropriation plan to achieve actuarial soundness in the LECOSRF Pension Plan Trust Fund.

WHEREAS, The State LECOSRF is a defined-benefit (DB) supplemental retirement pension plan funded by LECO employee and State contributions, court fees, and pension trust fund investment earnings to provide a supplemental retirement annuity to LECOs whose careers are often shortened due to physical requirements of demanding positions. The pension is not actuarially sound by industry standards or statutory requirements with a current funded ratio of 60.5% and a “never funding” period of the pension’s unfunded liability of \$653 million (FY 2021). The ERS independent actuaries state that this situation will result in the following:

- A projected funded ratio of 51.8% by 2026;
- A projected unfunded liability of \$921 million by 2026;
- A projected fund depletion date of 2050; and
- A projected cost of ten times the current State contribution rate when LECOSRF reverts to a pay-as-you-go status at fund depletion; and,

WHEREAS, The State Legislature established a new, more secure, and sustainable tier of a cash balance LECOSRF pension for LECOs hired after August 31, 2022 (SB321/2021) – with good features for future LECO employees/retirees; however, it did not address the continuing “pension debt” dangers that exist for members of LECOSRF (active, inactive, and retired) that currently number over 77,000; and,

WHEREAS, Further delays in repairing the existing unsound LECOSRF still put future retirement pension payments to members in jeopardy, increase the cost to the State with each passing year, and ultimately threaten taxpayers with higher costs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature strongly urges the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to respond to this urgent need by establishing a medium to long-term annual legacy/supplemental funding plan to achieve a sound LECOSRF pension status, provide funding security for LECO retirees, and reduce/eliminate significant future State “balloon payments” that could be unaffordable to the State and to taxpayers.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 12, 2022, by the Pensions, Investments, Insurance, & Financial Services Committee.



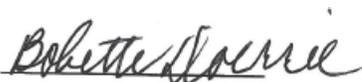
Gary Gerstenhaber, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 4, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

**TSHL PRIORITY #4**

**By:** Scott Christensen, Sherry Hubbard, Paul Stempko, Barbara Williams, and  
Bobette Doerrie

No. R024

**Committee:** Pensions, Investments, Insurance, & Financial Services

**Authorize TRS to Provide a Cost-of-Living Adjustment to  
Teacher Retirement System Retirees**

A RESOLUTION TO: Provide a permanent Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) to Teacher Retirement System (TRS) retirees.

WHEREAS, The TRS Pension has maintained and improved actuarial soundness for three consecutive years with unfunded actuarial accrued liability (UAAL) funding periods of 29 years (2019), 27 years (2020), and 23 years (2021). Senate Bill 12 (2019) established an equitable shared funding increase plan between employees, employers, and the State designed to maintain actuarial soundness. Under Texas Code §821.006, the Texas Legislature may authorize TRS to issue a benefit increase to TRS retirees provided that the benefit would not push the funding period (amortization) of the UAAL up to or beyond 31 years; and,

WHEREAS, No TRS retiree retiring after August 31, 2004, (over half of all current TRS retirees) has received a COLA while the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI-W) has increased (consumer price inflation) by 47% from 2004 to 2021, leaving many TRS retirees vulnerable to increased living costs, including significant premium increases of up to 135% for TRS-CARE in 2018; and,

WHEREAS, While supplemental payments (i.e., 13<sup>th</sup> checks) have been greatly appreciated, they are historically infrequent, temporary in nature, and do not add any long-term security to continuously rising living costs affecting TRS retirees; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature strongly urges the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas State Legislature to enact legislation that authorizes TRS to provide a permanent COLA to all eligible TRS retirees effective September 1, 2023.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 12, 2022, by the Pensions, Investments, Insurance, & Financial Services Committee.



Gary Gerstenhaber, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 4, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST: 

Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

By: David Timmerman, Linda Timmerman

No. R025

Committee: Retirement & Aging

**Require Backup Emergency Generator Power Source in Assisted Living Facilities**

A RESOLUTION TO: Require licensed assisted living facilities in Texas to be equipped with an operational emergency generator or a comparable emergency power source with enough fuel to operate the generator or power source for a minimum of 48 hours.

WHEREAS, There are 903 large, assisted living facilities with more than sixteen beds and 1123 smaller assisted living facilities with fewer than sixteen beds in Texas. No assisted living facility, regardless of size or type, is required to have an emergency back-up power source; and,

WHEREAS, Every year, Texas experiences hurricanes, tornados, and other severe weather events which impact older Texans. As an example, "at its peak, February 2021, Winter Storm Uri affected 606 assisted living facilities in Texas...endangering the health, safety, welfare, and rights of long-term care residents" (statement by Patty Ducayet on April 6, 2021, testifying in support of HB 2325 [Rep. Ed Thompson, sponsor] before the Texas House HHSC); and,

WHEREAS, Emergency back-up power could be designated to selected areas or rooms in the facility to maintain the air temperature not less than 68 degrees and not more than 81 degrees Fahrenheit during a power outage. An air-cooled 22 KW stand-by generator powered by propane or natural gas can power a small house completely or selected rooms or area for minimal expense; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature pass legislation to require assisted living facilities be equipped with an operational emergency generator or a comparable emergency power source with enough fuel to operate the generator or power source for a minimum of 48 hours.

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 2, 2022, by the Retirement & Aging Committee.



Dan Roberts, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 4, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Retirement and Aging

**State to Require Hospital, Clinic, and Doctor Pricing Transparency**

A RESOLUTION TO: Require hospitals, clinics, and doctors to provide transparent pricing, including all co-pays to patients, prior to or during treatments regardless of insurance or lack thereof.

WHEREAS, Many, if not most, Texas’ hospitals, clinics, and doctors do not currently provide current pricing to patients in any meaningful way prior to, during, or often even after treatment. And most older Texas patients never find out how much any service costs until after a quarterly statement is received from insurance such as Medicare. While recent federal law requires hospitals to post prices for certain services, Texas does not currently have a state-level price transparency law or rule as some states do; and,

WHEREAS, Many patients may need or want pricing information prior to a doctor visit, clinic visit, or hospital stay whether the patient is within or outside an insurance network. Some patients may have insurance (private or employer-based) or be self-insured, some may be on Medicare or Medicaid, and some may have no insurance; and,

WHEREAS, Texas’ older patients have a right to know what they and/or their insurance carrier is being charged and what out-of-pocket co-pays are required. Many Texas older patients may want to comparison shop prior to a visit. Some may want to avoid the surprise shock of a large bill after a visit, especially those who may be self-insured, uninsured, or out-of-network. Transparency will help eliminate some of these stress issues among Texas older patients; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to provide transparent pricing information for patients during visits, even prior to patients’ visits as appropriate, to include posting current pricing schedules on the websites, among other appropriate methods, regardless of insurance coverage or lack thereof.

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 2, 2022, by the Retirement & Aging Committee.



Dan Roberts, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 3, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST: 

Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Retirement & Aging

**Extension of Senior Homestead Property Tax Exemptions**

A RESOLUTION TO: Extend the property tax freeze and homestead tax exemptions to Texans over the age of 65 who live as a resident of a nursing facility, assisted living facility, or state-supported living center and depend on rental income from their property to pay expenses for the alternative living accommodations.

WHEREAS, In 2003, Texas voters gave cities the ability to cap property tax bills for Texans over 65 years who live on their property; and,

WHEREAS, The State does not tax property at the state level; property taxes in Texas are assessed by local jurisdictions, such as counties, school districts, and cities. Each of these jurisdictions has until July 1 of the current tax year to offer additional exemptions. The Texas Legislature may also provide certain tax exemptions; and,

WHEREAS, When an older Texan moves from their residential housing (nursing facility, assisted living facility, or state-supported living center), the full value of the home property returns to the tax rolls. This drastically increases the taxes and has a negative impact on older Texans who have limited resources and who depend on the rental income from their homestead to pay expenses; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to support legislation to amend the Texas Tax Code to permit Texans over the age of 65 to retain the property tax freeze and exemption on their homestead property while they are residents of a nursing facility, assisted living facility, or state-supported living center and dependent upon rental income from their property to pay expenses for the alternative living accommodations.

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 2, 2022, by the Retirement & Aging Committee.

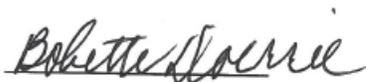


Dan Roberts, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 4, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST: 

Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Retirement & Aging

**Require Relocation Funds Be Used for Recruiting and Training/Retraining  
Individuals 60 or Older for Returning to the Workforce**

A RESOLUTION TO: Require that no less than 10% of the funds issued to businesses relocating to or within the State of Texas be dedicated to retraining persons aged sixty or older to position them to continue in or return to the workforce.

WHEREAS, The age expectancy, currently 79, is increasing and expected to continue to increase to the extent that as many as 25% of the workforce will be over the age of 55 by the year 2025. During the 2020 to 2030 timeframe, workers over 65 will account for more than 60% of the projected labor-force growth; and,

WHEREAS, Sixty percent (60%) of non-working Americans in their late 60's and 70's are willing to return to the workforce. Many professional, credentialed, licensed, highly skilled, and valuable older Texans want to or need to keep working, including past retirement age, but often are excluded in the applicant pool as being over-qualified or unskilled for specific jobs. AARP estimates that 75% of older Americans have experienced age discrimination; and,

WHEREAS, The State of Texas issues funds through the Texas Enterprise Fund, the Skills Development Fund of the Texas Workforce Commission, the Texas Moving Image Industry Incentive Program, and other programs to train or re-train workers for these businesses; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the Texas Legislature to require that no less than 10% of the funds provided to businesses relocating from outside or within the State of Texas be dedicated to recruiting and training/retraining individuals 60 or older to be employed in the workforce. Training may be on-the-job or contract provided.

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 2, 2022, by the Retirement & Aging Committee.



Dan Roberts, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 4, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Retirement & Aging

**Designate a Portion of the Older Americans' Act Funding and State Matching Funds for Healthy Aging Programs**

A RESOLUTION TO: Dedicate a portion of the Older Americans' Act Funding and State matching funds to Area Agencies on Aging for specific and defined healthy aging programs.

WHEREAS, The members and percentage of Texas' older population continues to outpace the available funds for much of the palliative programs for that population; and,

WHEREAS, The President's and both Houses of Congress's budgets suggest an increase in historical services which fund "palliative" services and fail to recognize that money spent on healthy aging will prove future dividends in better health and happier lives; and,

WHEREAS, The Aging Network comprised of Area Agencies on Aging and the many service providers in each area have a demonstrated capacity to serve older Texans in many unique ways; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature directs the Department of Health and Human Services to designate a portion of these funds to be directed to the Area Agencies on Aging exclusively for programs designed to assist older Texans to live independently, healthfully, and actively apart from expensive and more invasive chronic health services.

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 2, 2022, by the Retirement & Aging Committee.



Dan Roberts, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 4, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST: 

Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Retirement & Aging

**Provide a Discount on Texas' Tolling Entities for Texans 65 and Older**

A RESOLUTION TO: Amend Texas Transportation Code § 372.053 to require Texas' tolling entities to offer discounted use of a toll project to Texas-registered vehicles owned and operated by Texas residents aged 65 and older.

WHEREAS, Public transportation authorities in Texas offer discounts for riders aged 65 and older; and,

WHEREAS, Many older Texans live in areas not served by public transportation and are dependent on roads, bridges, and tunnels owned and/or operated by Texas' tolling entities; and,

WHEREAS, Rising fees to use a toll project have created a financial burden for many older Texans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature requests that the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature amends Texas Transportation Code § 372.053 to require Texas' tolling entities to offer discounted use of a toll project to Texas-registered vehicles owned and operated by Texas residents aged 65 and older.

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 2, 2022, by the Retirement & Aging Committee.



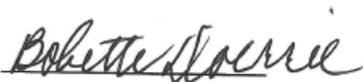
Dan Roberts, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 4, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

**Committee:** Retirement & Aging

**Amend the Texas Transportation Code to Simplify the Process for Older Texans to Convert Their Texas Driver License to a Texas ID When They Choose to Stop Driving**

A RESOLUTION TO: Simplify the process for older Texans to convert their valid Texas driver license to valid Texas ID when it is time to “hand over the keys” and stop driving.

WHEREAS, A time comes in the life of every aging Texan that they realize driving is no longer in their best interest nor the interest of the public at large; and,

WHEREAS, Current steps to obtain a valid Texas ID is an onerous process requiring documents that may no longer exist such as a birth certificate for a retiring driver who may have held a valid Texas driver license for more than five decades. A valid Texas driver license is domestically recognized and accepted as a valid form of identification for matters of enrollment, commerce, ownership, conveyance, voting, et cetera; and,

WHEREAS, Texans aged 70 and up do not statistically pose a criminal or terrorism threat requiring extensive background checks; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature revises the Texas Transportation Code to require only DPS form DL-14A, a current photo, and thumbprints for Texans aged 70 and up when converting a valid Texas driver license with a State ID.

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 2, 2022, by the Retirement & Aging Committee.



Dan Roberts, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 4, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST: 

Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Human Services

**Coordinate Funding for a Seamless and Integrated Transportation System**

A RESOLUTION TO: Integrate many transit systems in Texas so they can function more like one easy-to-use network.

WHEREAS, The increasing need for public and human services transportation exceeds funding abilities across Texas and the United States. The population hit hardest by lack of funding is the transportation-disadvantaged -- those individuals with limited transportation options due to disabilities, age, or income status; and,

WHEREAS, The Regional Coordinated Transportation Planning Program serves to promote strategic partnerships among local and state agencies in the twenty-four Texas planning regions. That planning effort discovered that there are unmet transportation needs and gaps in services, such as the need to expand and increase transportation services; improve and increase coordination and collaboration; increase and improve connectivity and access; increase ridership through targeted outreach, marketing, and engagement; and determine additional funding sources; and,

WHEREAS, Seamless and integrated transportation means making it easy to access trips that involve multiple transit agencies operating across service-area boundaries; but the challenge to a seamless transit system is the restrictive funding system that impedes the ability of providers to cross operator service-area boundaries, to provide point-to-point navigation, and to provide fare payments along the entire route. Integration of the many transit systems so they can function more like one easy-to-use network will allow for those who are currently transportation-disadvantaged to obtain a better transportation system; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature calls upon the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to increase funding and ease restrictions on existing funding for the transit systems to defeat navigational challenges, reduce difficult transportation decisions, encourage multi-operator trips, meet transportation needs, and conquer gaps in public and human services transportation, and that a copy of this resolution be sent to the chairman of the Texas Transportation Commission.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 11, 2022, by the Human Services Committee.



Barbara Williams, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 3, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST: 

Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Rural – Urban

**Support A Meaningful Increase in Funding for Rural Transit Districts**

A RESOLUTION TO: Address the need for additional rural public transportation for older Texans.

WHEREAS, It is no secret that public transportation continues to present challenges for communities in rural areas. With difficulties in obtaining funding, service frequency, wider travel zones, and a lack of access to services are in greater need than ever before to improve their transportation services in rural areas. The Rural Public Transportation grants program (*United States Code under Title 49 Section 5311*) helps people in rural areas access healthcare, shopping, education, employment, and recreation. Currently, there are few operators providing public transportation in rural areas and small cities with populations under 50,000; and,

WHEREAS, The way people have traditionally accessed transportation services has dramatically changed over the past decade. With the introduction of shared mobility services like Uber, urban passengers now have greater options when it comes to conveniently selecting a mode of transport. But for rural communities, it is a different story. Only 38 Rural Transit Districts serve all counties throughout Texas. Rural Transit Districts provide access to needed goods and services, jobs, and medical services throughout the rural counties of Texas, but funding opportunities from large federal and state grants have historically left qualified rural projects underfunded; and

WHEREAS, Rural Transit Districts traveled 36,056,467 miles and provided 6,197,604 one-way trips to the citizens of rural Texas in 2018; but, on average, bus fleets for Rural Transit Districts are at 130 percent of their established lifecycle. Without increased funding to meet increasing service demands and costs in rural areas, services to those most in need in rural Texas will suffer; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to support a meaningful increase in funding for Rural Transit Districts.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 14, 2022, by the Rural – Urban Committee.



Sharon Brazeal, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 2, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST: 

Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Rural – Urban

**Enact Permanent Daylight Savings Time**

A RESOLUTION TO: Eliminate the twice-yearly time change in the State of Texas.

WHEREAS, The time change, especially in the spring, has been blamed for increases in heart attacks and traffic accidents as people, especially older adults, adjust to a temporary sleep deficit. Additionally, each time change places everyone in a temporary confused condition as they change times and biorhythms; and,

WHEREAS, A German medical study of autopsies from 2000-2015 showed a significant uptick just after the springtime switch in deaths caused by cardiac disease, traffic accidents, and suicides; and,

WHEREAS, Disrupting the body’s natural relationship to the sun can negatively affect not only sleep, but also cardiac function, weight, and cancer risks in Texas older adults; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature supports the passage of a measure to enact permanent daylight savings time.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 13, 2022, by the Rural – Urban Committee.



Sharon Brazeal, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 2, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Rural – Urban

**Seek a Waiver to Allow Food Stamps to be  
Used for Pet Food under SNAP**  
(Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)

A RESOLUTION TO: To keep tens of thousands of animals out of shelters and prevent low-income older Texans from giving their own food to their pets.

WHEREAS, Currently, there are no federal or state programs that help low-income people care for their pets. SNAP has explicitly excluded pet food since its earliest authorization in 1964, when the Food Stamp Act defined “food” to mean “any food or food product for human consumption.” The Lone Star card cannot be used to purchase any of the following: “tobacco, alcoholic drink, Items you cannot eat or drink.” The current SNAP eligibility rules and benefit levels, for the most part, are set at the federal level and are uniform across the nation, although states have flexibility to tailor aspects of the program; and,

WHEREAS, A poll commissioned by the American Pet Products Association stated that 14 percent of all pet-owning households make less than \$25,000 per year -- which, for a family of four, is roughly the federal poverty limit. When families do not have enough money to buy pet food, they share their people food. But it is not the same, and it can harm pets. And it can cut into the pet owner’s diet. According to *The State of Senior Hunger in America 2019* report, food-insecure seniors were 60 percent more likely to experience depression than food-secure seniors, indicating that food insecurity has a negative impact on the general well-being of older individuals; and,

WHEREAS, Food costs can also prompt low-income families to surrender or re-home their pets. In a 2015 study by the ASPCA, 30 percent of low-income people who relinquished their pets said that they would have kept them if they had a free or low-cost pet food option. We know that pets provide comfort to families and individuals, and those who are struggling financially, more than likely, will also need food for their pets; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to seek a waiver from the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food and Nutrition Service (USDA-FNS) to amend the exclusion of pet food from the current restrictions of the SNAP program, and/or find or draft legislation that would enable older low-income Texans to access pet food.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 14, 2022, by the Rural – Urban Committee.



Sharon Brazeal, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 2, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST: 

Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Rural - Urban

**Increase the Maximum Property Tax Rate Allowable for Rural ESDs**

A RESOLUTION TO: Propose a constitutional amendment to increase the Emergency Services District (ESD) maximum property tax rate of \$.10/\$100 taxable value to \$.15/\$100 for ESDs in rural counties.

WHEREAS,

- ESDs are political subdivisions of the State. Article III Section 48-e of the Constitution limits the ad valorem property tax rate of ESDs to a maximum of \$.10 per \$100 taxable value to fund Fire & EMS. This is an out-of-date, one-size-fits-all restriction, especially for rural county ESDs.
- ESDs are authorized to collect a local sales tax within the unused portion of the local 2% available, if voter approved, to fund Fire/EMS services provided by the local ESD; and,

WHEREAS, Rural ESDs have one or more of the following characteristics: (1) minimal commercial taxable property, (2) properties subject to agricultural appraisal, (3) unpredictable taxable value of oil/gas property, (4) limited local sales subject to sales tax, and (5) a large geographical service area. Rural Texas has a significantly higher percentage of 65+ year-old citizens (2020 median rural county level rate of almost 20% - txcip.org data) than urban areas. This population is the most vulnerable when fire or health emergencies (EMS) occur. Rural counties comprise 172 of the 254 Texas counties – 68% (U.S. - OMB). Texas received a D- in Rural Healthcare (Texas Tech University – Marie Hall Institute for Rural & Community Health, Dec. 2017) where EMS is a critical lifeline. As of 2019, 156 of the State’s 330 ESDs (47%) were “capped out” with a tax rate of \$.09/\$100 of taxable value or above; and,

WHEREAS, A constitutional amendment will not encourage runaway taxes. Chapter 775 of the Health and Safety Code and Truth in Taxation Laws mandates local voter control of property tax maximums and tax rate increases. Voters must approve any increase in the maximum authorized tax rate. Currently, the \$.10 maximum prohibits ESDs from achieving even the “No-New-Revenue” rate in a tax year where property valuation decreased, and the current year “No-New-Revenue” Rate exceeds \$.10 tax rate. A \$.10 cap limits service offering and level, impairs long-range planning, and is counter to local voter control to approve/reject a tax rate for service required, especially in rural ESDs; now, therefore, be it

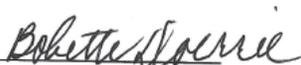
RESOLVED, The 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature strongly urges the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to approve a proposed constitutional amendment to increase the \$.10/\$100 of taxable value maximum property tax rate to \$.15/\$100 for ESDs in Texas rural counties.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 13, 2022, by the Rural – Urban Committee.

  
Sharon Brazeal, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 3, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

  
Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:   
Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

**TSHL PRIORITY #8**

**By:** Pat J. Porter

No. R037

**Committee:** Rural – Urban

**Improve Access to Healthcare in Rural Texas for Older Texans**

A RESOLUTION TO: Improve access to healthcare in rural Texas for older Texans.

WHEREAS, Access to healthcare in rural America including Texas is a big and growing problem, with over 100 rural hospitals having closed nationwide since 2010 and hundreds more at risk of shutting their doors in the near future. The closure rate has, for the most part, been in a steep rise since 2010. The Chartis Center for Rural Health report said that of the 1,844 rural hospitals still in operation nationwide, 453 of them, or nearly one in four, are “vulnerable” to closure; and with COVID-19, the patient market size will be smaller, reimbursement lower, and competition greater in the future; and,

WHEREAS, Twenty-five percent of Americans live in rural areas, while only about 10 percent of doctors practice in rural areas; fewer primary care offices may be needed as care shifts to virtual models, but health systems must be able to provide coexisting systems of care for the COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 patients they will simultaneously serve; and,

WHEREAS, States are approaching the problem from a variety of different angles. According to LexisNexis State Net’s legislative tracking system, at least a dozen states have introduced legislation in the recent sessions that would provide funding for rural healthcare facilities and services. At least ten states have introduced bills that would provide incentives, such as income tax deductions and education loan forgiveness, for physicians, nurses, and other healthcare professionals that practice in rural locations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature passes legislation to improve access to healthcare in rural Texas for older Texans by providing additional funding to rural healthcare facilities and providing incentives for practices in rural locations.

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 2, 2022, by the Rural – Urban Committee.



Sharon Brazeal, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 4, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

**By:** Perry Slagle, Al Campbell, Jerry Johnson, Dick Coupe, and Joe Henderson

No. R038

**Committee:** State Affairs

**Establish a Texas State Veterans Home in Brazos County**

A RESOLUTION TO: Establish a Texas State Veterans Home in Brazos County.

WHEREAS, There is no Texas State Veterans Home in Brazos County or nearby in the Brazos Valley area, and there is a need for such a Veterans Home; and,

WHEREAS, There are more than 8,371 (2015-2019) veterans in Brazos County, and there are more than 16,000 (2019 census) veterans in the Brazos Valley; and,

WHEREAS, Many veterans are unable to take advantage of the more remote Texas State Veterans Homes from where they presently reside, and many would be away from their immediate present residence, as well as being away from family and friends, if they moved to a more remote Texas State Veterans Home; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Silver- Haired Texas Legislature strongly urges the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to establish a Texas State Veterans Home in Brazos County.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 14, 2022, by the State Affairs Committee.



Scott Christensen, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 2, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: State Affairs

**Restoration of Gaming Activities on Texas Native American Reservations**

A RESOLUTION TO: Provide travel safety and entertainment for Texas older adults, increase State revenue, provide employment, improve reservation economy, and re-establish economic sovereignty of Texas Native Americans.

WHEREAS, In other states, Native Americans have improved themselves economically and have reduced unemployment through ownership of casinos; and

WHEREAS, Each year millions of trips are made by Texas's older adults to casinos in Oklahoma, Louisiana, and New Mexico for the purpose of patronizing casinos, most of which are owned by Native American nations. Long-distance travel is expensive and presents safety problems for older adults. Well-regulated casinos in Texas improve safety and entertainment for older adults while increasing local tourism and employment opportunities. Additionally, casinos provide enhanced revenue for the State and Native American reservations; and

WHEREAS, Texas older adults, Native Americans, and the State of Texas will all benefit when Texas laws are changed to allow gaming activities on reservations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to authorize a vote on a constitutional amendment and appropriate legislation to allow American Indian tribes in Texas to sponsor gaming activities on reservations.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 14, 2022, by the State Affairs Committee.

  
Scott Christensen, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 2, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

  
Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:   
Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: State Affairs

**Voter Election to Authorize Local Option Elections to Allow Casinos**

A RESOLUTION TO: Resolve the much-debated, but not yet resolved, issue of casinos in Texas by allowing Texas voters to authorize local-option elections in which the voters of each state senatorial district could decide for themselves whether casinos should be allowed to operate in and around their communities.

WHEREAS, Many citizens in Texas may want to decide for themselves whether to allow casinos in their own communities; and,

WHEREAS, Each year older Texas citizens travel frequently to Louisiana, Oklahoma, and New Mexico to patronize casinos, resulting in a huge and growing amount of Texas money flowing to those states with a corresponding loss of revenue to Texas that could be used to greatly benefit the economy of Texas; and,

WHEREAS, By authorizing local elections in state senatorial districts, the voters in those districts could decide for themselves whether increased tourism, added revenue, improved overall economy, and new jobs generated by allowing casinos to operate in their local communities would outweigh any negative aspects; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to allow Texas voters to decide in a statewide election whether to authorize local option elections to allow casinos to operate in these local areas.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 14, 2022, by the State Affairs Committee.

  
Scott Christensen, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 2, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

  
Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:   
Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

**TSHL PRIORITY #2**

**By:** Mercedes Bristol, Sherry Hubbard, Scott Christensen

No. R041

**Committee:** Criminal Justice

**Child-Related Income Follows the Child**

A RESOLUTION TO: Ensure all child-related income is transferred to the kinship placement.

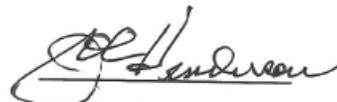
WHEREAS, In the State of Texas, 303,000 children are currently not living with a parent. For every one child being raised in foster care, there are eighteen being raised by kinship placements outside the Foster Care System. These children that are placed with kinship caregivers do not get any financial assistance from the State. Some of these children are eligible for SSI, child support, food stamps (SNAP), medical provider assistance, and survivors' benefits, if qualified; and,

WHEREAS, 48% of these kinship placement caregivers are age 60 and older, and most are living on limited incomes including Social Security and pensions; 25% are disabled; 56% are still working; 44% are retired or unemployed; and 17% live below the poverty level. 46% have raised their grandchildren for five years or more, and 33% of these kinship caregivers are single grandparents. These kinship caregivers are in desperate need for financial assistance; and,

WHEREAS, The kinship placement has been proven to be more successful than foster care placement in that the children placed in loving homes of relatives have better behavioral and mental outcomes than those placed in foster care (TexasCASA.org). Considering this proven benefit, having the income follow the child will benefit the kinship caregiver to help provide and maintain the child's needs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to amend Subchapter 264.760 Chapter on Family Code, Eligibility for Foster Care Payments and Permanency Case Assistance, to read as follows: "Notwithstanding any other provisions of this subchapter, a Kinship Caregiver may receive these benefits provided by this subchapter."

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 14, 2022, by the Criminal Justice Committee.



Joe Henderson, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 3, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

**TSHL PRIORITY #7**

**By:** Charles Scoma

No. R042

**Committee:** State Affairs

**Amend Family Code to Provide for a Grandparent Conservatorship and Support Bill**

A RESOLUTION TO: Establish in Texas Law the right of grandparents who are raising grandchildren as “custodial parents” to receive all payments of support that have been ordered by the court for the benefit of the child.

WHEREAS, Child support is money a parent pays to help with the cost of raising a child, such as the cost of food, housing, clothing, school supplies, daycare, and activities. A parent can be ordered to pay child support by a judge to the person raising their children. Medical support is an additional child support cost a parent may be ordered to pay to cover the cost of dental/health insurance and medical expenses for a child. Even if there is no court order, both parents are expected to financially support their child. A parent who does not live with a child and does not help support the child may be ordered to pay “back” or “retroactive” child support to the person who cared for the child; and,

WHEREAS, There are 600,000+ children in Texas being raised by other than their biological parents; and the vast majority of those 600,000+ children are being raised by loving grandparents. In Texas, the legal word for this type of custody is “conservatorship;” and,

WHEREAS, Many grandparents are financially strained trying to survive on a fixed income and at the same time provide needed financial support for grandchildren in the house. Often the grandparent does not receive the child support payments that the court has ordered for the benefit of the child. To get a court order for child support, conservatorship, or visitation, grandparents need to file a Suit Affecting the Parent-Child Relationship, or SAPCR (“sap sir”); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to amend the Family Code to provide for a Grandparent Conservatorship and Support Bill to ensure that the grandparent receives all court-ordered child support payments made for the support of the child.

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 2, 2022, by the State Affairs Committee.



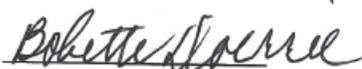
Mercedes Bristol, Vice Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 4, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

By: Mercedes Bristol, Sherry Hubbard, Scott Christensen

No. R043

Committee: Health & Human Resources

**Make Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Benefits Accessible to All Kinship Placements**

A RESOLUTION TO: Ensure kinship caregivers can financially manage placements so that there is an increase in the number of kinship placements over foster care placements.

WHEREAS, In the State of Texas there are 303,000 children placed in foster care costing the State a minimum of \$800/month for each child placed in a family-based foster care setting. For every one child in foster care there are 18 children that are placed outside the foster care system who do not qualify for any financial assistance (Generations United). These kinship households are being denied one-time TANF benefits (\$1,000), as well as SNAP benefits based upon the kinship caregivers' resources (income & vehicles); and

WHEREAS, Older kinship placement caregivers are often living on fixed incomes, and their absorbing the costs related to placements in the home (necessary home modifications, medical costs, food, and clothing requirements, etc.) while on fixed incomes can inhibit the kinship caregivers' decision to assume the responsibilities of becoming primary kinship caregivers; and,

WHEREAS, A kinship placement has been proven to be more successful than foster care placement in that the children are placed in loving homes of relatives and have better behavioral and mental health outcomes than those placed in foster care; thereby, considering this proven benefit, creating some financial equity between these two types of placements seems justifiable; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired legislature strongly urges the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to amend Texas Administrative Code, Title 1 Administration, Chapter 372 on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs to require that SNAP and TANF benefits are accessible to all kinship placements.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 13, 2022, by the Health and Human Resources Committee.



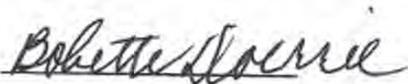
Paul Stempko, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 3, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: State Affairs

**Rebuild the Texas Department on Aging as the State Unit on Aging**

A RESOLUTION TO: Rebuild the Texas Department on Aging as the visible single State Unit on Aging in Texas.

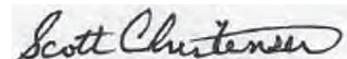
WHEREAS, Senate Bill 374, passed by the 76<sup>th</sup> Legislature, created a new commission on long-term care, consolidating the Texas Department on Aging into the Texas Department of Human Services (TDHS), now HHS; and,

WHEREAS, The Texas Department on Aging in partnership with the 28 Area Agencies on Aging have, in the past, proactively responded to emerging new mandates and a variety of aging issues. The consolidation of these state agencies has had a tremendously negative impact on the rapidly increasing population of older Texans in the state due to the different missions and philosophies of these agencies as mandated by their unique funding sources, which further confuses and disrupts the service delivery infrastructure at the local level; and,

WHEREAS, The service delivery philosophy of the Texas Department of Human Services (now HHS) evolved from the welfare system which is based on income means tests, functional needs, and other targeted eligibility criteria; but the concept of local authority evidenced by Texas Department on Aging in the past enabled the planning, development, and evolution of an array of programs and services for the elderly at the community level resulting in continued local support and commitment to these programs among the local citizenry, governments, church organizations, and funders; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to rebuild the Texas Department on Aging as the State Unit on Aging to ensure planning and advocacy for all older Texans regardless of income, social, and/or functional need, and to better prepare for the rapidly increasing number of older Texans.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 14, 2022, by the State Affairs Committee.



Scott Christensen, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 2, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST: 

Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

**By:** Sherry Hubbard, Linda Timmerman, and Hugo Munoz

No. R045

**Committee:** State Affairs

**Lower the Cost of Fishing Licenses for Texans 65 and Older**

A RESOLUTION TO: Decrease the cost of an All-Water Fishing License for Texas residents 65 years old and older from \$22 to \$5.

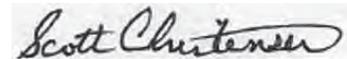
WHEREAS, In order for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to retain the ability to get matching funding from the American System of Conservation, the net revenue from fishing licenses must be at least \$2; and,

WHEREAS, In 1995, 27 years ago, the Texas governor signed into law HB1785 phasing out free fishing licenses for older Texans thereby causing them to incur an unnecessary expense. Texans born prior to January 1, 1931, (90 years of age or older) are eligible to receive free fishing licenses, while Texas anglers born after January 1, 1931, who are 65 or older, are expected to purchase a Senior All-Water Fishing License for \$22, thereby generating revenue for the state while lessening the recognition and honor once granted to Texas' older citizens; and,

WHEREAS, Reciprocity agreements with Oklahoma and Louisiana allow their residents 65 years of age and older to fish Texas' waters using their state licenses which cost \$15 and \$5 respectively; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature requests that the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature restores the recognition, honor, and privilege once granted to Texans 65 years of age and older by lowering the cost of Senior All-Water Fishing Licenses to \$5.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 14, 2022, by the State Affairs Committee.



Scott Christensen, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 3, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

**TSHL PRIORITY #3**

By: Audrey Fisher

No. R046

Committee: State Affairs

**Increase the Readability of the Application and Vote-by-Mail  
Documentation to Reduce the Rejection Rate**

A RESOLUTION TO: Increase the readability of the Application and Vote-by-Mail documentation.

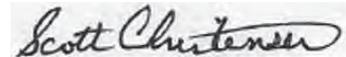
WHEREAS, The number of older voters in Texas is approximately 5.5 million, and a large number of older voters are affected with presbyopia; and,

WHEREAS, The font on the 2022 Application for a Ballot by Mail, the actual ballot to vote, and the ballot envelope and carrier envelope are smaller than recommended for older persons by all national standards; and,

WHEREAS, The Secretary of State has authorized the printing of all required documentation to be modified by a contracted printer to make adjustments as necessary to lower the cost of printing and postage; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature requires that the printed font size of mail-in voting material be maximized, with only black print on white paper, and the return ballot envelope size be maximized to make all information readable for the qualified voters without increasing the postage cost beyond one first-class stamp to the voter.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 14, 2022, by the State Affairs Committee.



Scott Christensen, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 4, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

By: Joe C. Henderson, Betty Jo Brown, and Irene Andrews

No. R047

Committee: Pensions, Investments, Insurance, & Financial Services

**Enact Legislation to Review Senate Bill 1 (SB1) Voting Procedures**

A RESOLUTION TO: Review SB1 voting procedures, specifically to consider more streamlined and convenient voting procedures for older Texans.

WHEREAS, Voting by mail is the only option for many older Texans; and

WHEREAS, There is confusion over voting procedures -- use of driver license or social security number, lack of voter education, and, finally, instructions that are difficult to read (for example, the font is too small); and,

WHEREAS, More than 27,000 mail ballots in 120 counties in Texas for the primary election in March 2022 were flagged for rejection, delaying their ability to vote; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature reviews SB1 voting procedures, for example, voting instructions, voting by mail, increased voting hours, absentee ballot drop-off locations based on population, curbside voting as needed to accommodate the needs of physically challenged voters, and voter assistance.

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 2, 2022, by the Pensions, Investments, Insurance, & Financial Services Committee.



Gary Gerstenhaber, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 4, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: State Affairs

**Amend Texas Administrative Code, Title 26, Chapter 554  
to Require Quarterly Inspection of Cash Flow Statements**

A RESOLUTION TO: Ensure older Texans residing in Texas nursing homes are not displaced because of fraudulent acts by facility owners/operators and that State Medicaid funds are used only for the purposes intended by legislation.

WHEREAS, Over 88,000 aging and/or disabled Texas citizens reside in 1,215 regulated nursing homes across the State as of 2020. Though capacity utilization declined during the COVID-19 epidemic, with the growth in Texas' aging population, the number of nursing home residents and facilities will certainly grow in the coming years. For every nursing home resident, there is a family who relies on that facility to provide safe and continuous care for their loved one(s). With an increasingly mobile population and with limited options for older Texans to age in place, many in the 65-and-over demographic must rely on these facilities to care for them as they age and/or as their health declines. Between 80% and 85% of nursing home residents require some form of supplemental funding be provided for their care; and,

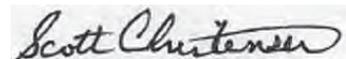
WHEREAS, The State of Texas, for FY 2022-23, requires \$571 million of Medicaid funds to assist in the care of these aging Texans in these facilities, according to the Health & Human Services Commission (HHSC). These funds, along with self-pay and Medicare funding, are paid directly to the owner/operators of these facilities, for a total of \$1.48 billion; and,

WHEREAS, Financial mismanagement in nursing homes can result in the misuse/loss of Medicaid funds and in the defrauding of citizens of Texas as recovery of these funds after the fact through the courts is often limited. Texas currently has no preventive financial controls to ensure a facility's owner(s) cannot divert the State's Medicaid funds to personal use resulting in diminished quality of patient care and potentially bankrupting the facility's operation and displacing its residents; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to amend Texas Administrative Code, Title 26, Chapter 554, to include

Each licensed nursing facility shall conduct an inspection of quarterly cash flows reconciled to the facility's primary operating banking account, including, but not limited to, an accounting of receipts of all State Medicaid funds, as well as cash outflows, including, but not limited to, identified direct nursing salaries and contractor payments, repair and maintenance, administrative costs, as well as expenditure details for any checks or transfers-out at a threshold amount to be determined by the Texas State Legislature.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 14, 2022, by the State Affairs Committee.

  
Scott Christensen, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 4, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

  
Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:   
Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: State Affairs

**Continue Funding Darrell K Royal Texas Alzheimer's Initiative Supporting  
Texas Alzheimer's Research and Care Consortium (TARCC)**

A RESOLUTION TO: Continue Funding Darrell K Royal (DKR) Texas Alzheimer's Initiative Supporting Texas Alzheimer's Research and Care Consortium (TARCC).

WHEREAS, The DKR Texas Alzheimer's Initiative, a funded special item Art. III, University of Texas at Austin, is an important collaborative research effort that includes Baylor College of Medicine, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, University of North Texas Health Science Center, University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical Center, Texas A&M Health Science Center, and the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley; and,

WHEREAS, The well-characterized TARCC research cohort contains longitudinal clinical, neuropsychiatric, neuropsychological, genetic, and blood biomarker data on more than 3600 participants diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease (AD), mild cognitive impairment (MCI), and healthy aging controls. This rich data enables TARCC investigators to study a wide array of topics including disease models, biomarkers that may aid in diagnosis, model changes in cognitive function over time, allow identification of factors that affect not only risk but also disease progression in a demographically diverse sample, study caregiver support, and conduct valuable proteomic studies of dementia. Since the start of the 2019 biennial period, TARCC-funded investigators have been awarded an additional \$37,248,733 in federal and foundation grant funding, effectively utilizing and building on State appropriated funding; and,

WHEREAS, The state-funded effort, named in honor and memory of iconic Texas football coach, Darrell K Royal, is unique in the nation and has greatly increased Texas' capacity to advance research and discovery to improve early diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of Alzheimer's disease; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to continue funding this important DKR Texas Alzheimer's Initiative to support the Texas Alzheimer's Research and Care Consortium (TARCC) at the current \$9.23 million level or at an increased level for the biennial budget.

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 2, 2022, by the State Affairs Committee.



Mercedes Bristol, Vice Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 4, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: State Affairs

**Allow Texas Citizens to Vote on Expansion of Medicaid**

A RESOLUTION TO: Allow Texans the opportunity to vote on the financial federal option to expand Medicaid.

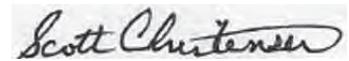
WHEREAS, Texas remains one of only 12 U.S. states that has not chosen to expand Medicaid, allowing our portion of the federal dollars (well over \$100 billion to date) to be given to the participating 38 states who have opted to expand Medicaid services. In addition, Texas has had 22 rural hospitals close since 2014, (the first year of Medicaid expansion) due, in no small part, to the missed opportunity of uncompensated treatment that could have been funded by Medicaid Expansion; and,

WHEREAS, Texas has the highest numbers of uninsured people (4.7 million) in the country, with 1.4 million more who could be covered if our state elected to expand Medicaid (Kaiser Foundation). Moreover, expansion would have prevented the death of 15,600 older Texans ages 55-64 (2014-2019), but because of our state’s failure to expand Medicaid, it did not (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Nov. 6, 2019); and,

WHEREAS, A review of over 400 research studies shows that Medicaid expansion is associated with greater access to care, improved affordability of care, decreased uncompensated care costs, increased utilization of care, reduced medical debt, and increased coverage (Kaiser Foundation). In addition, a Jan. 2021 poll by the Hobby School of Public Affairs showed that 69% of Texans support Medicaid expansion; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature passes legislation to allow the citizens of Texas to vote on the expansion of Medicaid of the Affordable Care Act to influence the issue of health and mortality rates of older Texans.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 14, 2022, by the State Affairs Committee.



Scott Christensen, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 3, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST: 

Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

By: Paul Stempko, Betty Lee Streckfuss, Sue Wilson, Mary Pat Smith  
Mary Nixon, and Fred Burrell, Jr.

No. R051

Committee: State Affairs

**Enact a Carefully Crafted, Well-Regulated Medical Cannabis Law  
to Allow Licensed Medical Professionals to Legally Prescribe Medical Cannabis**

A RESOLUTION TO: Allow authorized, licensed medical professionals to prescribe cannabis for persons of all ages suffering from intractable pain and other debilitating conditions without fear of prosecution of the patient or the prescribing licensed medical professional.

WHEREAS, Aging, less-adaptable patients with terminal or debilitating illnesses such as pain and nausea produced by chemotherapy and/or radiation used for treatment of many illnesses related to malignancies show great benefit from the use of medical cannabis in a safe and effective treatment plan controlled by state law; and,

WHEREAS, The medical use of cannabis by veterans, seniors, and others should be a personal, individual decision made by patients and their licensed medical professionals. No patient or licensed medical professional should face criminal charges under our Texas laws merely for using or prescribing medically-approved cannabis for such common maladies as, but not limited to, glaucoma, anxiety, agitation, loss of appetite, PTSD, depression, fibromyalgia, bulimia, epilepsy, and chronic pain; and,

WHEREAS, Denying the use of medical cannabis unnecessarily penalizes pain-riddled citizens, thereby forcing them to either endure pain, rely on other pain-suppressing drugs (such as opioids) that impose far more damaging side effects such as gastrointestinal issues, cardiac damage, and addiction, which are not associated with the use of medical cannabis; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to enact laws similar to those in effect in the steadily growing list of states which allow licensed medical professionals to prescribe and administer cannabis for medical purposes without fear of prosecution of either the patient or the prescribing licensed medical professional.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 14, 2022, by the State Affairs Committee.



Scott Christensen, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 3, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST: 

Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Utilities & Natural Resources

**Provide Full Funding to the Emergency 9-1-1 Service Program for Maintenance and Improvement**

A RESOLUTION TO: Address full funding for Texas 9-1-1 emergency service equipment and maintenance.

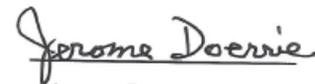
WHEREAS, In 1967, the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice recommended that a single number be established for reporting emergencies. In 1968, the telephone industry agreed on the digits 9-1-1 as the universal emergency number. The Commission on State Emergency Communications (CSEC) was created by the 70th Texas Legislature in 1987 to implement and administer 9-1-1 services throughout the state. The Texas Universal Service Fund (TUSF) was originally created by the Texas Legislature in 1987 and has since undergone many changes. TUSF is administered by the Public Utility Commission of Texas (PUC) and oversees an annual fund of approximately \$200 to \$220 million that supports 11 programs created by the Texas Legislature related to rural services to ensure that Texans have access to affordable voice services; and,

WHEREAS, Older Texans need access to 9-1-1 emergency services more often than the general population; and the monthly fee on business and residential phone bills already pays for this service; and,

WHEREAS, 9-1-1 emergency services dispatch and response depend on equipment which must function reliably on a continuous basis. Older equipment reaches a point of being high maintenance and becomes unreliable as technology continues to improve, necessitating upgrading hardware and software for reliable service; now, therefore, be it.

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to provide full funding to the Emergency 9-1-1 Service Program for maintenance and improvement, and the fund generated by the 9-1-1 surcharge be fully appropriated for the Emergency 9-1-1 Services Program.

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 2, 2022, by the Utilities & Natural Resources Committee.

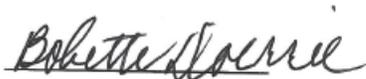


Jerome Doerrie, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 4, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST: 

Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Utilities & Natural Resources

**Increase Funding for the Examination, Exploration, and Support for Texas Desalination**

A RESOLUTION TO: Increase legislative funding that facilitates and expands water production in Texas through desalination.

WHEREAS, In 2020, Texas needed 600,000 acre-feet of water per year in just the Rio Grande Valley alone to satisfy our fast-growing and aging population. More groundwater is being used than replenished drawing down the state’s major aquifers; and,

WHEREAS, Reliable sources of water for small and mid-sized communities across the state will maintain the viability of those communities for their elderly and least mobile residents; and,

WHEREAS, Aggressive evaluation of desalination technologies is the key to reducing the cost of desalination which is currently twice the cost of capturing groundwater; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to increase funding for the examination, exploration, and support for desalination technologies and facilities in Texas.

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 3, 2022, by the Utilities & Natural Resources Committee.



Jerome Doerrie, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 4, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST: 

Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Utilities & Natural Resources

**Require Regional Councils of Government to Work Together  
to Become Designated as International Dark Sky Sites**

A RESOLUTION TO: Extend the benefits of the *Joint IDA – IES Model Lighting Ordinances* to the State.

WHEREAS, By 2030, one in five Texans will be 65 or older. Older adults are adversely affected by light glare caused by inappropriate outdoor lighting causing difficulties driving and walking that limit older adults' mobility. Older adults often have difficulty sleeping, and light trespass may prevent healthy sleep. Insufficient sleep has been related to disruption of the immune system in humans and connected to increased cancers, severity of COVID, and heart disease; and,

WHEREAS, SB 1090 (87R) enabled cities and counties to apply for International Dark Sky designations to provide appropriate outdoor lighting to illuminate necessary areas without glare and light trespass providing better visibility and sleep conditions for older Texans; and

WHEREAS, The 24 Regional Councils of Government have local influence, information, and communication between cities and towns in their service areas; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature passes a bill that requires Regional Councils of Government to provide a means for multiple political entities to work together to become designated as International Dark Sky Sites.

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 2, 2022, by the Utilities & Natural Resources Committee.



Jerome Doerrie, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 4, 2022, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary



# CONSENT RESOLUTIONS

Ms. Gloria Shinkawa, Parliamentarian for  
19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature's  
Legislative Session, Austin, TX

*During the Texas Silver-Haired Legislative Sessions our members take time to express appreciation for groups and individuals who provide extraordinary assistance and support. The official records of our expressions of thanks are found in the following Consent Resolutions.*



The 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature

CONSENT RESOLUTION

**Appreciation for the 87<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature**

WHEREAS, The ultimate goals and objectives of this organization on behalf of Texas seniors are in concert with the intent of the Texas Legislature and can best be met through effective communications and cooperation with the Texas Legislature; and

WHEREAS, The 87<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature continued to support and encourage the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature in its deliberations and efforts on behalf of Texas senior citizens; and

WHEREAS, The Texas Silver-Haired Legislature thanks each member of the House Administration Committee for the help they provided the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature in providing the Legislative Conference Room for the TSHL Orientation Session and Swearing in Ceremony July 18, 2021, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That all members of the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature wish to express our deepest appreciation and gratitude to the 87<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature for its continuing support and for studying our Legislative Report and taking action to enact laws that benefit and enhance the lives of older Texans.

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 2, 2022, by the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

*Rhonda Rogers*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

*Sherry Hubbard*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sherry Hubbard, Speaker Pro Tem

*Barbara Aydlett*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara Aydlett, Deputy Speaker Pro Tem

ATTEST:

*Bobette Doerrie*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bobette Doerrie, Secretary



The 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature

CONSENT RESOLUTION

**Appreciation to Texas Legislative Committee on Aging**

WHEREAS, The 81<sup>st</sup> Texas Legislature passed House Bill 610, authored by Representative Elliott Naishtat, and sponsored by Senator Leticia Van de Putte, to establish the Texas Legislative Committee on Aging to study issues relating to the aging population of Texas, including issues related to the healthcare, income, transportation, housing, education, and employment needs of that population, and to make recommendations to address those issues; and

WHEREAS, HB 610 was the first priority of the 12<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature with dedicated support of the Texas Senior Advocacy Coalition, Texas Conference on Aging, and other advocacy groups; and

WHEREAS, Committee members were initially appointed by Governor Rick Perry, Speaker Joe Straus, and Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst and more recently by Governor Greg Abbott, Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, and Speaker Dade Phelan; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature expresses its appreciation for the continued leadership and vision of the Texas Legislature, the Governor, and the members of the select Committee on Aging.

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 2, 2022, by the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

*Rhonda Rogers*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

*Sherry Hubbard*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sherry Hubbard, Speaker Pro Tem

*Barbara Aydlett*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Barbara Aydlett, Deputy Speaker Pro Tem

ATTEST:

*Bobette Doerrie*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bobette Doerrie, Secretary



The 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver Haired Legislature

CONSENT RESOLUTION

**Senior Day at the Capitol**

WHEREAS, There are more than five million Texans at least sixty years of age and older who have given decades of service to build the Texas of today and to prepare the Texas of tomorrow. As grandparents, mentors, teachers, and role models for millions of Texans in younger generations, they continue to instill cherished values in Texas children and grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, These older Texans reflect not only the ethnic, spiritual, and cultural diversity of Texas, but also our common bonds which have made Texas a leader in education, industry, agriculture, space exploration, information technology, literature, music, the arts, and sports; and, at great risk to themselves, they have defended our State and Nation so that democracy could thrive in Texas, our Nation, and globally; and

WHEREAS, It is appropriate that the people of Texas give recognition and thanks for the contributions of older Texans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature requests that the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature proclaim a Senior Day in Texas and urges that the contributions and accomplishments of older Texans be celebrated and commemorated with appropriate ceremonies by the people of Texas at the State Capitol.

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 2, 2022, by the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

*Rhonda Rogers*  
Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

*Sherry Hubbard*  
Sherry Hubbard, Speaker Pro Tem

*Barbara Aydlett*  
Barbara Aydlett, Deputy Speaker Pro Tem

ATTEST: *Bobette Doerrie*  
Bobette Doerrie, Secretary



The 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature

CONSENT RESOLUTION

**Appreciation to the Texas Association of Area Agencies on Aging**

WHEREAS, The coordination and continued support of the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature by the Texas Association of Area Agencies on Aging (T4A) in conducting the election of Texas Silver-Haired Legislators from the twenty-eight regions of Texas benefits the older population of Texas; and

WHEREAS, The Area Agencies on Aging and the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature encourage their members to be active participants in their individual Regional Advisory Councils where they gain valuable information on the various programs for aging citizens of Texas; and

WHEREAS, The T4A and Texas Silver-Haired Legislature pre-orientation training conferences conducted in various parts of Texas provide valuable training opportunities for the newly elected and re-elected members of the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature expresses gratitude to the Texas Association of Area Agencies on Aging and to the individual staff members who have devoted time and effort to support the activities of TSHL elections, pre-orientation training, and its encouragement of the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature in carrying out the mission of advocacy for older Texans as authorized by Senate Concurrent Resolution 37 of the 69<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature.

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 2, 2022, by the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker



Sherry Hubbard, Speaker Pro Tem



Barbara Aydlett, Deputy Speaker Pro Tem

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary



The 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature

CONSENT RESOLUTION

**Appreciation to Texas Health and Human Services Commission**

WHEREAS, Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) has acknowledged the efforts of prior Texas Silver-Haired Legislatures (TSHL) in their on-going advocacy for older Texans of the State of Texas by the presence and support of many representatives in those endeavors; and

WHEREAS, HHSC gives generously of time and knowledge to help the TSHL's advocacy role through information and references; and

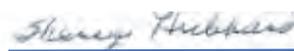
WHEREAS, The assistance from the Aging Services, Aging Services Coordination Office, and Aging Texas Well of HHSC enables greater advocacy by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature and raises the respect and esteem with which the TSHL is viewed by other State Agencies; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature expresses gratitude and appreciation for the guidance and confidence shown by HHSC in its support of the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature in our efforts to continue the responsible mission of advocacy for older Texans.

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 2, 2022, by the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker



Sherry Hubbard, Speaker Pro Tem



Barbara Aydlett, Deputy Speaker Pro Tem

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary



The 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature

CONSENT RESOLUTION

**Appreciation to State of Texas Preservation Board Coordinators**

WHEREAS, Robert Davis, Capitol Events and Exhibits Coordinator for the State of Texas Preservation Board, and Stacey Nicchio, Committee Coordinator, provided timely and efficient services and support to the 19th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature during its Orientation and Legislative Sessions; and

WHEREAS, The Texas Silver-Haired Legislature was enabled to conduct its sessions more effectively and productively as a result of the support provided by Robert Davis and Stacey Nicchio; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature expresses gratitude to Robert Davis, Capitol Events and Exhibits Coordinator, and to Stacey Nicchio, Committee Coordinator, for the help and cooperation given so readily and efficiently to the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature leading up to and during the TSHL's use of the House Committee rooms and Legislative Conference Center for the successful TSHL Orientation and Legislative Sessions in 2021-2022.

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 2, 2022, by the 19th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

*Rhonda Rogers*

Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

*Sherry Hubbard*

Sherry Hubbard, Speaker Pro Tem

*Barbara Aydlett*

Barbara Aydlett, Deputy Speaker Pro Tem

ATTEST:

*Bobette Doerrie*

Bobette Doerrie, Secretary



The 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature

CONSENT RESOLUTION

**Appreciation to Texas House Sergeant-at-Arms and  
Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms**

WHEREAS, Mike Black, Sergeant-at-Arms for the Texas House of Representatives, and Kara Coffee, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, provided timely and efficient services and support to the 19th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature during its Legislative Session; and

WHEREAS, The Texas Silver-Haired Legislature was enabled to conduct its sessions more effectively and productively as a result of the support provided by Mike Black and Kara Coffee; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature expresses its deep and respectful gratitude to Mike Black, Sergeant-at-Arms, and to Kara Coffee, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, for the help and cooperation given so readily and efficiently to the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature leading up to and during the TSHL's use of the House Chamber for the successful TSHL Legislative Session in 2022.

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 2, 2022, by the 19th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

*Rhonda Rogers*

Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

*Sherry Hubbard*

Sherry Hubbard, Speaker Pro Tem

*Barbara Aydlett*

Barbara Aydlett, Deputy Speaker Pro Tem

ATTEST:

*Bobette Doerrie*

Bobette Doerrie, Secretary



The 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature

CONSENT RESOLUTION

**Appreciation to the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature Foundation**

WHEREAS, The Texas Silver-Haired Legislature Foundation was established in 1986 to support the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature; and

WHEREAS, The Texas Silver-Haired Legislature Foundation offers training, technical, and financial assistance that is essential to realizing our common goals and objectives, and

WHEREAS, The Texas Silver-Haired Legislature Foundation sponsors fundraising events such as the awards dinner/Gala and other ongoing financial and volunteer support of TSHL mission; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature Foundation continues to explore new methods to assist and support the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the members of the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature express our appreciation to the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature Foundation and highly commend its Board and Officers for outstanding efforts, dedication, and service since 1986.

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 2, 2022, by the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker



Sherry Hubbard, Speaker Pro Tem



Barbara Aydlett, Deputy Speaker Pro Tem

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary



The 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature

CONSENT RESOLUTION

**Appreciation to Ms. Gloria Shinkawa, Parliamentarian**

WHEREAS, The Texas Silver-Haired Legislature operates under Bylaws, Rules, and Policy and Procedures enacted by the members; and

WHEREAS, The correct interpretation of these Bylaws, Rules, and Policy and Procedures is essential for effective and productive meetings; and

WHEREAS, It is necessary to have a professional Parliamentarian to interpret these documents; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the members of the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature express their appreciation to Ms. Gloria Shinkawa for her generous donation of time, training, and expertise to the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 2, 2022, by the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker



Sherry Hubbard, Speaker Pro Tem



Barbara Aydlett, Deputy Speaker Pro Tem

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary



The 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature

CONSENT RESOLUTION

**Appreciation for the Pflugerville Marriott Courtyard and Conference Center**

WHEREAS, The Texas Silver-Haired Legislature met in 2021 for our Orientation and Training Sessions at the Marriott Pflugerville Courtyard and Conference Center for the first time; and

WHEREAS, The management staff from the event manager, catering manager, sales manager to the accounting staff worked diligently to ensure that our Sessions went smoothly, to serve us while we were there, and to provide quality lodging and conference services at a reasonable rate; and

WHEREAS, The entire staff including the front desk clerks, engineering services, housekeeping, and restaurant staff members cheerfully greeted our members, ensured our safety, worked hard to have all meeting rooms arranged correctly and on time, and treated our members with dignity to assure our members were comfortable and cared for; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the members of the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature wish to express our deepest appreciation and gratitude to the staff at the Marriott Pflugerville Courtyard and Conference Center for the excellent service and valuable role they play in the success of our TSHL Executive Committee Meetings and General Sessions.

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 2, 2022, by the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker



Sherry Hubbard, Speaker Pro Tem



Barbara Aydlett, Deputy Speaker Pro Tem

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary



**The 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature**

CONSENT RESOLUTION

**Tribute to the 18<sup>th</sup> TSHL Officers**

WHEREAS, The continued success of the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature depends, in large part, on the leadership of its volunteer officers; and

WHEREAS, Those individuals that serve in an officer position in the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature often go beyond the call of duty and spend untold hours to serve the older citizens in the great state of Texas; and

WHEREAS, The leaders elected for the 18<sup>th</sup> TSHL were

SPEAKER	Rhonda Rogers
SPEAKER PRO TEM	Sherry Hubbard
DEPUTY SPEAKER PRO TEM	Barbara Aydlett
SECRETARY	Bobette Doerrie
COMPTROLLER	Wayne Merrill

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That all members of the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature hereby pay tribute to the officers of the 18<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature and express our appreciation and gratitude for their commitment and dedication in providing able leadership during their terms of office and being key advocates for older Texans.

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 2, 2022, by the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker



Sherry Hubbard, Speaker Pro Tem



Barbara Aydlett, Deputy Speaker Pro Tem

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary



The 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature

CONSENT RESOLUTION

**Organization of 19<sup>th</sup> TSHL Executive Committee**

WHEREAS, The TSHL Executive Committee is a vital part of the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature, established for the purpose of deliberating and acting on matters of consequence to the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature; and

WHEREAS, Bylaws and appropriate policies and procedures have been approved and promulgated by the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature that define and fix the limit of the authority and responsibilities of the Executive Committee; and members are expected to attend quarterly and called meetings to determine the most efficient courses of action for the entire body of the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature; and

WHEREAS, The 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature met and elected or appointed members to serve on the Executive Committee as representatives of older residents of their respective districts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Executive Committee of the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature is composed of representatives as shown on Attachment 1 to this Consent Resolution.

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 2, 2022, by the 19th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

*Rhonda Rogers*  
Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

*Sherry Hubbard*  
Sherry Hubbard, Speaker Pro Tem

*Barbara Aydlett*  
Barbara Aydlett, Deputy Speaker Pro Tem

ATTEST: *Bobette Doerrie*  
Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

The 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature – 2021-2023**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**OFFICERS

Speaker	Rhonda Rogers	Ark-Tex
Speaker Pro Tem	Sherry Hubbard	Concho Valley
Deputy Speaker Pro Tem	Barbara Aydlett	Bexar County
Secretary	Bobette Doerrie	Panhandle
Comptroller	Wayne Merrill	Concho Valley

AREA REPRESENTATIVES

Edward Rogers – Alamo  
 J. Alan Mathis – Central Texas  
 John (Dick) Coupe – Dallas County  
 Elgin Davis - Deep East Texas  
 Bonnie Andrews - East Texas  
 Jean Williams - Houston-Galveston  
 Hugo Munoz - Lower Rio Grande  
 Charles Isaac - Middle Rio Grande  
 Mary Nixon - Southeast Texas  
 Pat J. Porter – Permian Basin  
 Barbara King - West Central Texas

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Criminal Justice	Joe Henderson	Texoma
Health & Human Resources	Paul Stempko	Capital Area
Human Services	Barbara Williams	Ark-Tex
Pensions, Investments, Insurance, & Financial Services	Gary Gerstenhaber	Capital Area
Retirement & Aging	Dan Roberts	North Central Texas
Rural – Urban	Sharon Brazeal	Texoma
State Affairs	Scott Christensen	Brazos Valley
Utilities & Natural Resources	Jerome Doerrie	Panhandle

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Communications	Linda Timmerman	Heart of Texas
Elections & Credentials	Viola Hebert	Harris County
Finance	Fred Burrell, Jr.	North Central Texas
Operations	Joann Blackmon	South Plains
Technology	Mike Taylor	Tarrant County
Legislative Action	Sue Wilson	Capital Area

EMERITUS MEMBERS

Al Campbell, Brazos Valley

Pat J. Porter, Permian Basin

Jetta Roberts, Rio Grande

Betty Lee Streckfuss, Harris County



The 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature

CONSENT RESOLUTION

**Organization of 19<sup>th</sup> TSHL Standing Committees**

WHEREAS, The 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature constituted certain standing committees for the purpose of researching areas of concern and for receiving public testimony regarding the issues affecting older citizens of Texas which should be addressed by the Legislature of the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, The 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature has constituted other standing committees for the purpose of planning and conducting the administrative operations within the functional areas as designated by the title; and

WHEREAS, Bylaws and appropriate policies and procedures have been approved and promulgated by the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature that define and fix the limit of the authority and responsibilities of the standing committees; and

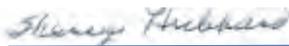
WHEREAS, In accordance with the bylaws, and policies and procedures, the governing body met during the TSHL Orientation Session, July 18, 2021, and elected or appointed members to serve on said committees; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That said 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature establishes the following Legislative Issues Committees and Administrative Committees composed of the legislators as shown in Attachments 1 and 2.

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 2, 2022, by the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker



Sherry Hubbard, Speaker Pro Tem



Barbara Aydlett, Deputy Speaker Pro Tem

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

**THE 19<sup>th</sup> TSHL ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES**

COMMUNICATIONS	ELECTIONS & CREDENTIALS	FINANCE
<p><i>Linda Timmerman - Chair</i>  <i>Cindy Jones - Vice Chair</i>  <i>Ronnie Janecka - Secretary</i>                      Scott Christensen                      Joe Dale                      Doris Griffin                      Jerry Johnson                      Barbara King                      Debbie Milner                      Bess Mitchell                      Carol Peters                      Cathy Pope                      Patricia Quattromani                      Bert Simon                      Paul Stempko                      Allen Wiatrek</p>	<p><i>Viola Hebert - Chair</i>  <i>Frank Archuleta - Vice Chair</i>  <i>M. Dolores Garcia - Secretary</i>                      Rae Barry                      Tito Camacho                      Al Campbell                      Elgin Davis                      Gary Gerstenhaber                      Nancy O. Hardin                      Patricia Harkins                      Joe Henderson                      Alan Mathis                      Mary Nixon                      Charles Pankey                      Mike Sandoval                      Danny Volcik                      Jean Williams</p>	<p><i>Fred Burrell, Jr. - Chair</i>  <i>Edward Rogers - Vice Chair</i>  <i>Sharon Rolirad - Secretary</i>                      Alicia deJong-Davis                      Peggy Dimmick                      Audrey Fisher                      Jane Glover                      Martha Jackson                      John L. Johnson                      David Kunselman                      Jetta Roberts                      Brigitte Rogers                      Ross Rolirad                      Charles Scoma                      Perry Slagle                      Jack White                      Barbara Williams</p>
OPERATIONS	TECHNOLOGY	LEGISLATIVE ACTION
<p><i>Joann Blackmon - Chair</i>  <i>Hugo Munoz - Vice Chair</i>  <i>Rose Timmer - Secretary</i>                        Bonnie Andrews                      Maryann Barthelemy                      Sharon Brazeal                      Mercedes Bristol                      Betty Jo Brown                      Dick Coupe                      Jerome Doerrie                      Betty Hooey                      Charles Isaac                      Sharon Kulig                      Rosemary Mathis                      James Rivers                      Dan Roberts                      Kay Sanders                      Mary Pat Smith                      Betty Lee Streckfuss                      David Timmerman                      Jerry Tyson                      Sue Wilson</p>	<p><i>Mike Taylor - Chair</i>  <i>Ira Wilsker – Vice Chair</i>                        Fred Meyer III                      Pat Porter                      David (Steve) Toback</p> 	<p><i>Sue Wilson - Chair</i>  <i>Pat J. Porter – Vice Chair</i>                        Sharon Brazeal                      Scott Christensen                      Jerome Doerrie                      Gary Gerstenhaber                      Joe Henderson                      Dan Roberts                      Paul Stempko                      Barbara Williams</p>

**19<sup>th</sup> TSHL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES COMMITTEES**

<b>Criminal Justice</b>	<b>Health &amp; Human Resources</b>	<b>Human Services</b>
<p><i>Joe Henderson - Chair</i>  <i>Ronnie Janecka - Vice Chair</i>  <i>M. Dolores Garcia- Secretary</i></p> <p>Fred Burrell, Jr.                      Joe Dale                      John Johnson                      David Kunselman                      Sharon Rolirad                      Danny Volcik                      Ira Wilsker</p>	<p><i>Paul Stempko - Chair</i>  <i>Rose Timmer - Secretary</i></p> <p>Rea Barry                      Jane Glover                      Doris Griffin                      Nancy O. Hardin                      Viola Hebert                      Bess Mitchell                      Mary Nixon                      Jetta Roberts                      Edward Roberts                      Betty Lee Streckfuss                      Sue Wilson</p>	<p><i>Barbara Williams - Chair</i>  <i>Jack White - Vice Chair</i>  <i>Audrey Fisher - Secretary</i></p> <p>Frank Archuleta                      Alicia deJong Davis                      Patricia Harkins                      Betty Hooey                      Barbara King                      Rosemary Mathis                      Cathy Pope                      Patricia Quattromani                      Kay Sanders                      Jerry Tyson</p>

<b>Pensions, Investments, Insurance, &amp; Financial Services</b>	<b>Retirement &amp; Aging</b>	<b>Rural - Urban</b>
<p><i>Gary Gerstenhaber - Chair</i>  <i>Charles Scoma - Vice Chair</i></p> <p>Elgin Davis                      Hugo Munoz                      Mike Taylor                      Linda Timmerman                      Allen Wiatrek</p> <p><b>State Affairs</b>  <i>Scott Christensen - Chair</i>  <i>Mercedes Bristol – Vice Chair</i>  <i>Cindy Jones - Secretary</i></p> <p>Charles Isaac                      Debbie Milner                      Brigitte Rogers                      Mike Sandoval                      Mary Pat Smith                      David (Steve) Toback</p>	<p><i>Dan Roberts - Chair</i>  <i>Al Campbell – Vice Chair</i>  <i>Maryann Barthelemy - Secretary</i></p> <p>Bonnie Andrews                      Joann Blackmon                      Tito Camacho                      Martha Jackson                      Fred Meyer III                      James Rivers                      Jean Williams</p> 	<p><i>Sharon Brazeal - Chair</i>  <i>Perry Slagle – Vice Chair</i>  <i>Sharon Kulig - Secretary</i></p> <p>Dick Coupe                      Peggy Dimmick                      Jerry Johnson                      Alan Mathis                      Bert Simon, Jr.</p> <p><b>Utilities &amp; Natural Resources</b>  <i>Jerome Doerrie – Chair</i>  <i>Ross Rolirad – Vice Chair</i>  <i>Pat J. Porter - Secretary</i></p> <p>Betty Jo Brown                      Charles Pankey                      Carol Peters                      David Timmerman</p>



The 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature

CONSENT RESOLUTION

**Organization of 19<sup>th</sup> TSHL Support Committees**

WHEREAS, The 19<sup>th</sup> TSHL Executive Committee approved certain support committees for the purpose of researching areas of concern, establishing programs and services for members, and carrying out the extra duties of the organization; and

WHEREAS, Bylaws and appropriate policies and procedures have been approved and implemented by the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature that define and fix the limit of the authority and responsibilities of the support committees; and

WHEREAS, In accordance with the bylaws and policies and procedures, the Executive Committee met during the TSHL Orientation Session, July 18, 2021, and approved the support committees and members as appointed by the TSHL Speaker, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 19<sup>th</sup> Silver-Haired Legislature acknowledges with gratitude these support committees and the leadership and vision of their members in performing the duties of their respective programs as shown on Attachment 1.

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 2, 2022, by the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

*Rhonda Rogers*  
Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

*Sherry Hubbard*  
Sherry Hubbard, Speaker Pro Tem

*Barbara Aydlett*  
Barbara Aydlett, Deputy Speaker Pro Tem

ATTEST: *Bobette Doerrie*  
Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

**19<sup>th</sup> TSHL SUPPORT COMMITTEES**

**AWARDS**

*Mary Nixon - Chair*  
Barbara Aydlett  
Bobette Doerrie



**DIRECTORY**

Edward Rogers - Ad Sales  
Director  
Ross Rolirad - Ad Accounts  
Manager  
Rhonda Rogers -  
Coordinator

**ETHICS**

*Mary Pat Smith - Chair*  
*Paul Stempko - Vice Chair*  
Scott Christensen  
Mary Nixon

**MEMORIAL**

*Dolores Garcia - Chair*  
Al Campbell  
Doris Griffin

**PARLIAMENTARIAN**

Pat J. Porter

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**REVIEW PANEL**

*Pat J. Porter - Chair*  
Ross Rolirad  
Mike Sandoval  
Linda Timmerman

**SILVER BULLETIN**

*Linda Timmerman - Editor*

**STRATEGIC PLANNING**

*Charles Scoma - Chair*  
Frank Archuleta  
Maryann Barthelemy  
Dick Coupe  
Jerome Doerrie  
Walter Graham (Emeritus)  
Bess Mitchell  
Pat J. Porter  
Dan Roberts  
Paul Stempko  
Mike Taylor  
Linda Timmerman

**TRAINING**

*Betty Jo Brown - Chair*  
Ronnie Janecka  
Sherry Hubbard

# **19<sup>TH</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislative Report**

Prepared by Authority of

The Honorable Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

The Honorable Linda Timmerman, Chair, Communications Committee

The Honorable Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

TSHL Foundation President, Dr. Elise Brazier

*The TSHL Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization*

*Legislative Report Editor: Dr. Linda Timmerman*

*Proofed and Edited by:*

*Rhonda Rogers, Dr. Sherry Hubbard, Pat J. Porter*

**Honor the Texas flag:  
I pledge allegiance to thee,  
Texas,  
One state under God,  
One and indivisible.**

*Representative Debbie Riddle and others authored an amendment to the pledge by House Bill 1034 during the 80<sup>th</sup> Legislature with the addition of "one state under God."  
The revised wording became effective on June 15, 2007.*



The flag was adopted as the state flag when Texas became the 28<sup>th</sup> state in 1845.

As with the flag of the United States, the blue stands for loyalty, the white represents strength, and the red is for bravery.



[www.tshl.org](http://www.tshl.org)

