

The 18th
Texas Silver-Haired Legislature
2019 - 2021



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

July 27 – July 29, 2020

Virtual Legislative Session
During Global Pandemic



Members of the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature gather in the Rotunda of the Texas State Capitol following the swearing-in ceremony, July 15, 2019.





August 2020

To: Our Honorable Elected Officials

Please accept the heartfelt thanks of the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature for working with us over many years. The 86th Legislature fully or partially passed 13 of the 48 resolutions we presented to them. Our collective experience in 2020 has proven how valued, vulnerable, and important older Texans' lives are in our great state. The challenges you face this session are unprecedented as you deal with the effects of the COVID-19 global pandemic. May God grant you extra wisdom during this time.

I am proud to present the enclosed resolutions to the Governor, the 87th Texas Senators and Representatives, and Texas Health and Human Services. These resolutions reflect the determination of the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature to carry out the mandate given to us by Senate Concurrent Resolution 37, adopted by the 69th Texas Legislature and signed by the Governor on April 11, 1985.

As our delegates were obtaining input from peers, conducting research, and drafting resolutions early in 2020 and preparing for our regularly scheduled session in May, we were confronted by COVID-19. In an effort to assure the safety of our vulnerable, high-risk members, we transitioned all of our deliberations from in-face to virtual meetings

Seventy-two resolutions recommending legislation on issues affecting older Texans were drafted by the TSHL members statewide. An additional four resolutions were submitted addressing COVID-19 specific concerns of older Texans. Our resolutions passed through our Legislative Issues Committees, the Legislative Action Committee, and two days of floor debate – more than 50 virtual meetings were required to complete our efforts. Fifty-four resolutions were ultimately passed by TSHL and are presented for your consideration.

TSHL has worked closely with our elected officials for 35 years, and with your support well over 200 resolutions have become law and benefitted older Texans. We have missed traveling to Austin for face-to-face meetings, but we knew that the Texas Legislature would expect us to be thorough in our research and submission of issues that are important and necessary for older Texans. So we called upon our children, grandchildren, neighbors, friends, and fellow TSHL members to gain the technical expertise to literally make history and demonstrate to other older Texans that we have the capability and willingness to learn to use technology efficiently and effectively.

We are grateful for your consideration and help in addressing the issues faced by older Texans, We look forward to working with you as you write, debate, and pass legislation that will help older Texans lead healthier, safer, happier, and more independent lives.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rhonda Rogers".

Rhonda Rogers,
Speaker, Texas Silver-Haired Legislature 2019-2021

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORIZATION

Senate Concurrent Resolution 37

69th 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 60 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 69th 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 age 60 and over who have been elected by our peers from 28 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 69th 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 26 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 69th 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
January 30, 2020	Executive Committee Meeting	San Angelo, TX
April 1-May 1 & June 1, 15, 2020	Legislative Issues Committee Meetings	Virtual
May 3, 2020	Executive Committee Meeting	Virtual
July 7, 10, 14, 17, 20, 2020	Legislative Action Committee Meetings	Virtual
July 20-24, 2020	Training Meetings for Legislative Session	Virtual
July 26, 2020	Executive Committee Meeting	Virtual
July 27-29, 2020	TSHL Legislative Session	Virtual
August 26, 2020	Called TSHL General Session	Virtual

FUTURE TSHL EVENTS

October 15, 2020	Executive Committee Meeting	Lubbock, TX
February, 2021	Executive Committee Meeting	Austin, TX
April, 2021	Executive Committee Meeting	Austin, TX
July 18-22, 2021	19 th TSHL Orientation Session	Austin, TX



**The Honorable Donna Howard, State Representative from Austin, Texas, presides at
the Swearing-In Ceremony for the
18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature on the floor of the House Chambers
July 15, 2019**



The 18th TSHL passed a total of 54 resolutions during the Legislative Session, July 27-29, 2020. The resolutions that follow ask the 87th Texas Legislature for specific actions to benefit older Texans. The 18th TSHL membership selected these “Top Ten” priorities as those most important to older Texans statewide:

Listed in Rank Order:

#1

R031

By: Paul Stempko, Sue Wilson, Linda Parrish, Mary Pat Smith, and Betty Lee Streckfuss

Allow Licensed Physicians to Legally Prescribe Medical Cannabis and Support Evidence-Based Testing of Cannabis

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 87th Texas Legislature to support evidence-based testing of cannabis in Texas’s major medical facilities and their outlying annex medical centers to ensure only safe and effective cannabis products are legalized and to enact laws similar to those in effect in a steadily growing list of states which allow authorized physicians to prescribe and administer cannabis for medical purposes without fear of being prosecuted under state laws enacted to curb the illicit and destructive use of drugs.

#2

R022

BY: Jetta Roberts, Albert Campbell, and Pat J. Porter

Preserve or Increase Funding for Home-Delivered Meals

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 87th Texas Legislature to preserve or increase current funding for home-delivered meals to older adults.

#3

R043

By: Sherry Hubbard and Pat J. Porter

Increase Access to Healthcare for Older Adults via Telemedicine

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 87th Texas Legislature instructs Texas Health & Human Services to develop a telemedicine outreach model and provide funding for those institutions and free-standing medical practices that prove capable of using and expanding telemedicine in Texas.

#4

R018

BY: Sue Wilson, Barbara Aydtlett, Nancy Hardin, Linda Parrish, Carol Peters, and Chris Shoop

Increase Medicaid Reimbursement to Improve the Quality of Texas Nursing Home Care

RESOLVED, that the 18th Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 87th Texas Legislature to increase general revenue funds paid to Medicaid-certified nursing homes, combined with a payment methodology that includes financial incentives and accountability by both managed care and providers to improve the quality of care provided to Medicaid residents, to focus regulations on resident care, and to maintain needed access to long-term care for Medicaid-eligible individuals.

#5

R003

By: Dolores Garcia

A Resolution to Prevent Financial Abuse of Older Adult Citizens

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends the 87th Texas Legislature passes a law that allows Adult Protective Services or other legal entities to proceed with an investigation after the death of an abused older adult.

#6

R014

By: Viola Hebert, Barbara Aydtlett, Mary Nixon, Mary Pat Smith, Betty Streckfuss, Sue Wilson, and VaLita Waits

Grant Full Practice Authority for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs)

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature promotes and strongly recommends that the 87th Texas Legislature amends relevant portions of the State's Occupations Code by removing barriers, such as delegation requirements, granting APRNs full practice authority under licensure regulation of the Texas Board of Nursing.





#7

R017

By: Paul Stempko, Linda Parrish, Ted Hubert, Irene Andrews, and Barbara Aydlett

Offer the Citizens of Texas the Opportunity to Vote on the Expansion of Medicaid

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 87th Texas Legislature passes legislation to offer the citizens of Texas the opportunity to vote on the expansion of Medicaid to influence the issue of health and mortality rates of older Texans.

#8

R020

By: Jetta Roberts, Sharon Brazeal, Albert Campbell, Scott Christensen, Sherry Hubbard, Lynda Mitchell, and Sue Wilson

Increase the Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) for Medicaid Residents in Nursing Homes

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature encourages and strongly recommends that the 87th Texas Legislature increases the Personal Needs Allowance for Medicaid residents in Nursing Homes to no less than seventy-five (\$75.00)/month effective 09/01/2021.

#9

R045

By: Carol Peters, Joe C. Henderson, and Barbara Williams

Strengthen Public Policy and Initiatives to Expand Rural Broadband Infrastructure in Texas

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 87th Texas Legislature passes legislation to strengthen and further expand access to broadband infrastructure through public and public/private funds and partnerships and other initiatives to facilitate the rapid expansion and upgrade throughout the state using technologies best suited to carry more rural services to the older adult population of Texas.

#10

R007

By: Sherry Hubbard

Enhance Criminal Degree and Fines for Those Who Perpetrate Internet Fraud Against Older Adults

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 87th Texas Legislature protects the lifetime savings of older adults by enhancing the criminal levels, fines, and penalties on those who illicitly target Texas citizens who are over age 60.



18th Legislature Delegates Learn to Research and Write Resolutions
Wyndham Garden Hotel & Woodward Conference Center, Austin
July 2019

S U M M A R Y O F R E S O L U T I O N S



RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY TSHL JULY 2020

Top 10 Resolutions Bolded (not ranked)

RES #	TITLE	AUTHOR(S)
CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE		
R001	Impound Vehicles Driven by Uninsured Motorists When Stopped for Any Law Violation or Incident	Coycault, Roberts, Campbell
R002	Amend Texas Penal Code to Include and Penalize Undue Influence	Roberts, Campbell
R003	A Resolution to Prevent Financial Abuse of Older Adult Citizens	Garcia
R004	Suspend Driving Privileges for Older Adults Medically Diagnosed with Long-Term Memory Loss	Henderson, Waldrup
R005	Require Reverse Mortgage Commercials Meet the Truth-In-Advertising Standard	Hubert, Roberts
R006	Support Health Care to Aging Prison Population with Programs That Use Volunteers to Accelerate Parole Options for Incarcerated Populations Aged 65 and Older	Peters
R007	Enhance Criminal Degree and Fines for Those Who Perpetrate Internet Fraud Against Older Adults	Hubbard
EDUCATION COMMITTEE		
R008	Dementia Education and Training for Law Enforcement Officers	Gleason-Wynn
R009	Geriatric Training Requirements for License and Insurance Renewal for Practitioners Serving Senior Patients	Streckfuss, Roberts, Hebert, Wilson, Aydtlett, Barthelemy, Okabayashi, Porter
R010	Continuing Education for the Worker 60 and Older for Returning to the Workforce	Coupe, Doerrie, Timmerman, Hubert
R011	Integration of Geriatric Education by those Attending Schools of Health Professions in Texas	Porter, Streckfuss
HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES COMMITTEE		
R012	Quality Care for Nursing Facility Residents with Dementia	Gleason-Wynn, Mitchell
R013	Support the HHSC Prioritization of Recruitment and Retention of Medicaid Community Attendants by Increasing Funding	Parrish, Smith
R014	Grant Full Practice Authority for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs)	Hebert, Aydtlett, Nixon, Smith, Streckfuss, Wilson, Waits
R015	Establish a Task Force to Address Oral Health Care for Older Adults in Long-Term Care Facilities	Hebert
R016	Amend Texas Telemedicine Law to Include Teledentistry Services	Rivers
R017	Offer the Citizens of Texas the Opportunity to Vote on the Expansion of Medicaid	Stempko, Parrish, Hubert, Andrews, Aydtlett
R018	Increase Medicaid Reimbursement to Improve the Quality of Texas Nursing Home Care	Wilson, Aydtlett, Hardin, Parrish, Peters, Shoop
R019	Require a Criminal Background Check for CNAs and LVNs in Nursing Homes, Assisted Living Facilities, and Home Health Companies	Porter, Roberts, Aydtlett, Roberts, Hebert
R020	Increase the Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) for Medicaid Residents in Nursing Homes	Roberts, Brazeal, Campbell, Christensen, Hubbard, Mitchell, Wilson
R021	Require COVID-19 Testing for Residents and Staff in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities	Hebert
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE		
R022	Preserve or Increase Funding for Home-Delivered Meals	Roberts, Campbell, Porter
R023	Provide Funding to 28 AAAs to Identify and Provide Services to Texans Living Alone with Dementia	Gleason-Wynn

RES #	TITLE	AUTHOR(S)
R024	Establish a Minimum Staffing Ratio for Alzheimer's-Certified Assisted Living Facilities	Gleason-Wynn, Mitchell
R025	Fund Additional Positions within the Texas Workforce Commission's Older Independent Blindness Program	Smith
R026	Rebalance the Texas System for Community Care and Institutionalization	Parrish
R027	Increase Funding of the Texas Lifespan Respite Care Program (TLRCP)	Wilson, Aydtlett, Sandoval, Stempko, Timmer
R028	Develop Family Caregiver Training for Families of Older Adults and People with Disabilities	Porter
R029	Ensure Adequate Funding for Senior Corps Programs in Texas	Smith, Milner, Wilson
R030	Preserve Funding for State Agencies That Provide Essential Services and Support for Older Texans	Timmerman, Rogers
RETIREMENT AND AGING COMMITTEE		
R031	Allow Licensed Physicians to Legally Prescribe Medical Cannabis and Support Evidence-Based Testing of Cannabis	Stempko, Wilson, Parrish, Smith, Streckfuss
R032	Supplemental Funding Plan for the State Employee Retirement System	Christensen, Byler, Hubbard, Stempko, Wall, Waldrip
R033	Reject Conversion of Teacher Retirement System (TRS) Pension from Defined-Benefit (DB) to Defined-Contribution (DC) Plan	Christensen, Byler, Hubbard, Stempko, Wall
R034	Reform TRS-CARE by Increasing the State's Contribution Rate (Committed Funding)	Christensen, Byler, Hubbard, Stempko, Wall
R035	Assurance for Safe and Affordable Housing for LGBTQ Older Adults	Parrish, Aydtlett, Stempko, Andrews
R036	Continue Funding Darrell K. Royal Texas Alzheimer's Initiative Supporting Texas Alzheimer's Research and Care Consortium (TARCC)	Wilson, Aydtlett, Smith, Sandoval, Stempko
R037	Simplify Certification and Recertification Process for SNAP	Cohen
R038	Reinstate Free Fishing Licenses for Texans 65 and Older	Hubert, Hubbard
R039	Support Construction of New and Preservation of Existing Affordable Housing Units	Porter
R040	Extension of Homestead Property Tax Exemptions	Scoma
RURAL - URBAN COMMITTEE		
R041	Tuition Reimbursement for Volunteers for Rural Volunteer Fire Departments and Other Emergency Services	Henderson, Christensen
R042	Increase the Maximum Property Tax Rate Allowance for Rural ESDs	Christensen, Rogers, Henderson
R043	Increase Access to Healthcare for Older Adults via Telemedicine	Porter
R044	Improve Access to Healthcare in Rural Texas for Older Adults	Porter
R045	Strengthen Public Policy and Initiatives to Expand Rural Broadband Infrastructure in Texas	Peters, Henderson, Williams
STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE		
R046	Local Option Elections to Authorize Casinos	Campbell, Whiteside, Parrish
R047	Restoration of Gaming Activities on Texas Native American Reservations	Campbell, Whiteside, Parrish, Davis
R048	Provide Assistive Listening Devices to Visitors at the Texas State Capitol	Smith, Parrish, Streckfuss, Roberts
R049	Enact Permanent Daylight Savings Time	Henderson
R050	Support Coordinated Funding for a Seamless and Integrated Transportation System	Porter, Graham
R051	Redistricting Reform Using an Independent Nonpartisan Commission	Campbell, Whiteside, Parrish, Hubert, Griffin, Garza, Coycault, Byler, Aydtlett, Andrews
UTILITIES AND NATURAL RESOURCES		
R052	Increase Funding for the Examination, Exploration, and Support for Texas Desalination	Porter
R053	Continue, without Interruption, an Improved "Light-Duty Motor Vehicle Purchase or Lease Incentive Program"	Andrews
R054	Create Rebate Program for Residential Photovoltaic Solar Systems	Andrews

NOTES



18th Silver-Haired Legislators log-in for July 27-29, 2020

Virtual Legislative Session

via FreeConferenceCall.Com

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Committee: Criminal Justice

**Impound Vehicles Driven by Uninsured Motorists
When Stopped for Any Law Violation or Incident**

A RESOLUTION TO: Lower the insurance costs and dangers from uninsured drivers by impounding vehicles driven by uninsured drivers.

WHEREAS, Uninsured drivers increase the costs of automobile insurance; and often safe drivers, many of them older adults and individuals on fixed and low incomes, are not compensated for personal losses in incidents caused by drivers without insurance. Although ticketed for lack of insurance, many continue to drive. Preliminary data suggests that uninsured drivers have a higher incident rate than those who are fully insured. When an incident occurs with an uninsured motorist, the insured individual must pay the deductible, and the premiums are usually increased. Thus, those who obey the law are penalized; and

WHEREAS, Several local ordinances require that vehicles owned by drivers who are not able to show proof of insurance are immediately impounded and subsequently sold if not retrieved within an appropriate period. In at least one major city in Texas, this ordinance has contributed to a significant reduction in incidents; and

WHEREAS, Texas has one of the highest auto insurance costs in the nation. Mandatory insurance laws passed in 1981 were intended to protect policyholders from losses caused by uninsured motorists; however, insurance costs have continued to increase. A state initiative to remove uninsured motorists from the streets will contribute to lowering auto insurance premiums; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature calls upon the 87th Texas Legislature to support local governmental entities by passing state-wide legislation that will impound vehicles driven by uninsured motorists when stopped for any law violation or incident.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 21, 2020, by the Criminal Justice Committee.



Johnny Waldrip, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST: 
Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Criminal Justice

Amend Texas Penal Code to Include and Penalize Undue Influence

A RESOLUTION TO: Amend Subchapter D, Chapter 32 in the Texas Penal Code by adding a new section on financial abuse of elderly individuals to include "undue influence" in the definition of the offense and assign criminal penalties.

WHEREAS, The Office of the State Demographer (2016) confirms that the Texas aging population is growing fast (close to 4 million by 2020, 6 million by 2030), and according to True Link Report on Financial Elder Abuse, as high as 36.9% of seniors are affected by financial abuse in any five-year period; and

WHEREAS, To fully comprehend the treachery behind this deceitful crime, one must take into account that roughly 6 out of 10 cases of elderly financial abuse are committed by relatives and caregivers influencing the elders to put them as beneficiaries on their wills, their insurance policies, bank accounts, and credit cards. This can often completely drain an elder individual's finances. (AARP Magazine February and March 2018); and

WHEREAS, Because specialized terminology is part of separating financial exploitation from other forms of elder abuse, a new section to the current statute would encourage more enforcement against this crime, such phrases as a persuasion short of actual force, ongoing relationship of trust, vulnerable adult, subject to the will of a dominating party, and personal gain to the perpetrator without the informed consent of the victim. Inasmuch as the outcome from exploitation by undue influence is financial insecurity and the victim's inability to pay bills, to buy medicine, or to take care of oneself, enhanced enforcement would be beneficial; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 87th Texas Legislature to amend Subchapter D, Chapter 32 on fraud, by adding a new section on financial abuse of an elderly individual, and to include undue influence along with misdemeanor and felony penalties.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 21, 2020, by the Criminal Justice Committee.



Johnny Waldrip, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

By: Dolores Garcia

R003

Committee: Criminal Justice

A Resolution to Prevent Financial Abuse of Older Adult Citizens


A RESOLUTION TO: Permit investigations of financial abuse to continue after the death of an abused older adult citizen. Many times, financial abuse can take place within families, caregivers, and/or with the people with whom trust has been placed to take care of the older adults.

WHEREAS, When the abused older adult citizen dies, and the perpetrator(s) (companies) go on to someone else, the financial abuse can go on unnoticed. Financial abuse can begin anew with a new victim; and

WHEREAS, Financial abuse may not be visible at times to Adult Protective Services' investigations while the abused citizen is alive. However, the financial abuse may be uncovered afterward by someone other than Adult Protective Services. Thus, no further investigation takes place. A law is needed that permits investigations to continue indefinitely by others after the death of the abused older adult; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends the 87th Texas Legislature passes a law that allows Adult Protective Services or other legal entities to proceed with an investigation after the death of an abused older adult.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 21, 2020, by the Criminal Justice Committee.



Johnny Waldrip, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Criminal Justice

**Suspend Driving Privileges for Older Adults Medically
Diagnosed with Long-Term Memory Loss**

A RESOLUTION TO: Enhance the capability of driver's licensing authorities to better enforce the issuance or suspend driving permits for older adults who have been diagnosed with long-term memory loss, to include Alzheimer's, dementia, etc. Older adults with dementia are still on Texas' roads even after a dementia diagnosis.

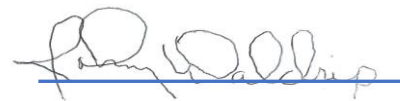
WHEREAS, Older adults who have been medically diagnosed with long-term memory loss subsequent to issuance of a driver's license are not having their license suspended. Nursing homes are advising the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and a letter is sent requesting the older adult come in for a re-examination; however, if no response, DPS does not follow up; and

WHEREAS, A driver with long-term memory loss should not be allowed to drive as they represent a danger to all motorists. Without DPS follow up there are many drivers on the road with memory loss; and

WHEREAS, It should be an imperative that Texas streets and highways be made as safe as possible. Removal of unqualified drivers would assist in bettering our accident record; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 18th Silver-Haired Legislature recommends the 87th Texas Legislature directs the Texas Department of Public Safety to suspend driving privileges for any older adult medically diagnosed with long-term memory loss. Follow up should be undertaken to make Texas' roads safer.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 21, 2020, by the Criminal Justice Committee.



Johnny Waldrip, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Criminal Justice

Require Reverse Mortgage Commercials Meet the Truth-In-Advertising Standard

A RESOLUTION TO: Create legislation that mandates truth in advertising for the protection of vulnerable older Texans.


WHEREAS, Texas adults, 62 years of age or older, qualify for a reverse mortgage loan and those in financial difficulties often apply, making them more vulnerable to half-truths coming from celebrities they respect; and

WHEREAS, Older adult citizens believe that they own the home as long as they occupy the residence; however, they are not told that they will only receive a loan on 2/3 of its appraised value, nor are they told they must pay the taxes and insurance plus maintain the home while living there; and

WHEREAS, Older adults are not required to pay back the loan, and there are no late charges or financial penalties levied; however, month after month the amount of payment is compounded to the principal. It does not take long before the debt is higher than the appraised value of the property; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 87th Texas Legislature passes a law that mandates truthfulness in reverse mortgage advertising.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 21, 2020, by the Criminal Justice Committee.



Johnny Waldrip, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Criminal Justice

Support Health Care to Aging Prison Population with Programs That Use Volunteers to Accelerate Parole Options for Incarcerated Populations Aged 65 and Older

A RESOLUTION TO: Increase public attention and support for nonprofit and faith-based jail and prison programs that provide assistance to older adult members of the Texas prison population suffering from mild cognitive impairment, Alzheimer's disease, and other forms of dementia in order to enhance quality of life through programs such as oral storytelling, lyrics writing, and illustrating.

WHEREAS, The total Texas prison population declined by 3% this decade, yet the number of inmates ages 55 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 the population, but 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; however, experts say that systemic change like paroling more aging inmates and better treatments for mental illness or substance abuse are needed to curtail expenses; 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 older adults allows those with these chronic degenerative diseases to address a wide range of health benefits that could lead to early paroles by reducing anxiety and depression; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 87th Texas Legislature to increase public awareness and provide support for public, nonprofit volunteer programs that engage older adults in incarcerated facilities in literary and artistic endeavors in order to improve their quality of life, uncover connections otherwise lost, and decrease the overall cost of health care in prison populations.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 21, 2020, by the Criminal Justice Committee.



Johnny Waldrip, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST: 
Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

By: Sherry Hubbard

R007

Committee: Criminal Justice

**Enhance Criminal Degree and Fines for Those Who
Perpetrate Internet Fraud Against Older Adults**

A RESOLUTION TO: Enhance by one criminal degree, fines, and penalties with an area of special designation for the perpetrator of the crime of internet fraud against older adult citizens.

WHEREAS, Over a third of Americans aged 65 and older use the internet daily, and costly internet fraud is on the rise in Texas with technologically inexperienced older adults disproportionately targeted; and

WHEREAS, Older adults are more susceptible to health care remedies, more concerned about the safety of their families, and can lose a lifetime of savings to criminals who work through the internet to contact older adults when they are at an age of increased vulnerability; and

WHEREAS, Media attention caused by increased punishment and fines for internet scammers who attack the elderly would bring a higher likelihood that seniors will report internet fraud and help decrease satisfaction for those who would take financial advantage of older adults through misuse of technology; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 87th Texas Legislature protects the lifetime savings of older adults by enhancing the criminal levels, fines, and penalties on those who illicitly target Texas citizens who are over age 60.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 21, 2020, by the Criminal Justice Committee.



Johnny Waldrip, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Education

Dementia Education and Training for Law Enforcement Officers

A RESOLUTION TO: Require dementia education for police academy training programs and law enforcement officers to include 4 hours of initial training and 2 hours of continuing education.

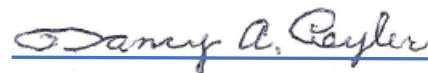
WHEREAS, Currently, 390,000 Texans have Alzheimer's disease or other dementia diagnoses; this number is just the tip of the iceberg. Alzheimer's disease is the most under-recognized public health crisis of the 21st century (Alzheimer's Association, Centers for Disease Control). As the population ages, there will be more people with dementia, thus more situations where people with dementia come in contact with local law enforcement and public safety officers; such instances can include car accidents and erratic driving, false reports and victimization, indecent exposure, shoplifting, and homicide; and

WHEREAS, In whatever situation, but especially in a crisis, it is likely difficult for an officer to know what to do and how to address the problem for a person with dementia. At least ten states in the USA have mandated dementia education and training requirements for law enforcement officers with the intent to increase positive outcomes when encountering someone with Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia; and

WHEREAS, Law enforcement units from across Texas have voiced the need for training as evidenced by reaching out to the Alzheimer's Association and requesting dementia training on topics such as dementia and behavioral symptoms, respectful and effective communication skills, techniques for understanding and addressing behavioral symptoms, and identifying alternatives to physical restraints, and protocols for contacting caregivers when a person with dementia is found wandering or is in a crisis situation; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 87th Texas Legislature passes legislation to require dementia education and training for police academy training programs and law enforcement officers.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 24, 2020, by the Education Committee.



Nancy A. Byler, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Education

**Geriatric Training Requirements for License and Insurance Renewal
for Practitioners Serving Senior Patients**

A RESOLUTION TO: Require 2 hours of the 48 required hours of Continuing Medical Education (CME) for healthcare professionals to be specifically focused on care, medications, and treatment of geriatric patients in any patient population comprised of patients over 60 years of age, thereby mitigating the foreseeable shortage and equipping healthcare professionals to be currently prepared in geriatrics and gerontology to avoid the often chaotic and inefficient care when called into emergency services such as during the destructive COVID-19 virus.

WHEREAS, The older adult population of Texans over 60 years of age is exponentially increasing and the number of qualified practitioners in geriatric medicine is diminishing due to attrition, lack of interest, and limited reimbursement for geriatrics services. The practitioners are themselves aging to a time in their own lives where forgetfulness and long-ago education may require a strong refresher course in this neglected field of practice; and

WHEREAS, This population of older adults is the most underserved and yet most likely to develop complicated and costly health problems often resulting in lengthy hospitalizations and long-term care and even death resulting from any newly-identified health care menace such as COVID-19, as well as from mismanagement, inappropriate medications, and/or misdiagnoses which could have been recognized by a practitioner who is more cognizant of new techniques in the treatment and practice of geriatrics; and

WHEREAS, These very older adults are often dependent on care by a health care professional who has no specialty training, is in that same age bracket as the patient but without knowledge of the new techniques in geriatric care, who may be blocking service to new Medicare-aged patients, or whose medical training was in an unrelated field than geriatrics; now, therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 87th Texas Legislature to require that 2 hours of the required 48 hours of Continuing Medical Education courses be on geriatric medicine for those practitioners who treat patients 60 and over.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 24, 2020, by the Education Committee.



Nancy A. Byler, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Education

Continuing Education for the Worker 60 and Older for Returning to the Workforce

A RESOLUTION TO: Require that ten percent (10%) of 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 life 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; and

WHEREAS, Many professional, credentialed, licensed, highly skilled, and valuable older Texans want to or need to keep working, including past retirement, but often are excluded in the applicant pool as being over-qualified or unskilled for specific jobs; and

WHEREAS, The State of Texas issues funds through the Skills Development Fund of the Texas Workforce Commission, the Texas Enterprise Fund, 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 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature requests that the 87th Texas Legislature requires that 10% of funds provided to businesses relocating from outside or within the State of Texas be dedicated to recruiting and training/re-training individuals 60 or older to be employed in the anticipated workforce. Training may be on-the-job or contract provided.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 28, 2020, by the Education Committee.



Nancy A. Byler, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:


Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Education

**Integration of Geriatric Education by Those Attending
Schools of Health Professions in Texas**

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

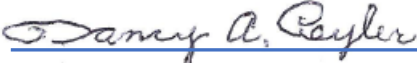
WHEREAS, The older adult population of Texans over sixty (60) years of age is over four (4) million, and the number of practitioners of geriatrics is diminishing due to attrition and reluctance of physicians to accept Medicare patients as a result of increased government restraints and limited reimbursement by Medicare for geriatric services; and

WHEREAS, This older population is among the most deserving, yet they are underserved by health care professionals who seldom care for older adults other than in emergency experiences. These healthcare providers are expected and trusted by their older adult patients to understand and treat their physical conditions, while the lack of experience or training in geriatrics 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, considering them unique from other segments of the population to the extent that proper care cannot be offered by medical personnel who have little or no geriatric education and may, in fact, cause harm; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 87th Texas Legislature to enact laws that require geriatric education be integrated into Texas medical areas of study governed by licensing or certifying authorities.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 24, 2020, by the Education Committee.



Nancy A. Byler, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Health & Human Resources

Quality Care for Nursing Facility Residents with Dementia

A RESOLUTION TO: Strengthen language in the 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; long-term care ombudsmen have identified over 200 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 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 87th Texas Legislature passes legislation strengthening the language in Health and Safety Code §242.040(b) to ensure that nursing facilities that use a locked door to restrict a resident's exit from a distinct part or all of the building obtain an Alzheimer's certification.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 30, 2020, by the Health & Human Resources Committee.


Sue Wilson, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.


Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST: 
Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Health & Human Resources

**Support the HHSC Prioritization of Recruitment and Retention of
Medicaid Community Attendants by Increasing Funding**

A RESOLUTION TO: Support older adult Texans and persons with disabilities by providing direction to the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and increasing Medicaid wages and benefits for Medicaid Community Attendants.

WHEREAS, There are a growing number of older Texans and people with disabilities who need Medicaid-funded home and community-based services, and there are almost 300,000 Medicaid Community Attendants in Texas currently providing these services and supports; and

WHEREAS, There is a critical shortage of Medicaid Community Attendants who are willing to work at the low Medicaid rates, currently \$8.11/hour, set by the State, and Medicaid Community Attendants usually do not receive health insurance, vacation, sick leave, or other benefits. Thus, Medicaid Community Attendants can receive more salary and benefits in retail and fast food employment; and

WHEREAS, This crisis of competent Medicaid Community Attendants will limit the ability of older and /or disabled Texans to live independently and age in place; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 87th Texas Legislature to support the HHSC prioritization of Recruitment and Retention of Medicaid Community Attendants by increasing funding for wages and benefits to \$15 per hour.

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 1, 2020, by the Health & Human Resources Committee.


Sue Wilson, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.


Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST: 
Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

TSHL PRIORITY #6

By: Viola Hebert, Barbara Aydlett, Mary Nixon, Mary Pat Smith, Betty Streckfuss,
Sue Wilson, and VaLita Waits

R014

Committee: Health & Human Resources

Grant Full Practice Authority for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs)

A RESOLUTION TO: Address Texans' need for quicker access to comprehensive, cost-effective care, shorter wait times for care, and improved health outcomes by fostering full practice authority for APRNs as mandated by statute.

WHEREAS, A large percentage of the Texas population faces distinct access-to-care challenges; especially in Medically Underserved Areas (MUAs), Medically Underserved Populations (MUPs), and Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs); therein, presenting an excellent opportunity for qualified health care providers to mitigate potential adverse outcomes; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 29,000 APRNs in Texas are prepared to fill a critical slot in the healthcare delivery landscape, recognizing that in twenty-eight states and the District of Columbia, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and all branches of the military have already adopted full practice authority for APRNs. Removing restrictive barriers in Texas will allow APRNs to take on the challenge and ease some of the many stresses upon the healthcare system; and

WHEREAS, The President's Executive Order, Protecting and Improving Medicare for Our Nation's Seniors, seeks to remove physician supervision requirements that prevent providers, including nurse practitioners, from being able to serve our nation's older adults to the top of their license; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature promotes and strongly recommends that the 87th Texas Legislature amends relevant portions of the State's Occupations Code by removing barriers, such as delegation requirements, granting APRNs full practice authority under licensure regulation of the Texas Board of Nursing.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 30, 2020, by the Health & Human Resources Committee.


Sue Wilson, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.


Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST: 
Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Health & Human Resources

**Establish a Task Force to Address Oral Health Care for
Older Adults in Long-Term Care Facilities**

A RESOLUTION TO: Create a task force to study the need and offer potential solutions for optimal oral care for long-term care facility (LTCF) residents.


WHEREAS, There is a large body of evidence in clinical studies of LTCF residents indicating strong correlations between poor oral health and life-threatening diseases and conditions, such as malnutrition, aspiration pneumonia, poor glycemic control, cardiovascular conditions, as well as dementia and cognitive decline; and

WHEREAS, The barriers to providing good oral hygiene to LTCF residents are multifactorial, including challenges from the individual resident's condition (e.g., need for assistance, impaired manual dexterity, limited mobility, vision loss, care-resistant behaviors, etc.) and facility staffing considerations (e.g., staff shortages, lack of time, non-adherence to practice standards, lack of proper education and training, etc.); and

WHEREAS, Meeting these challenges should be a priority since approximately 1.5 million adults age 65 and older reside in LTCFs. With this number poised to increase along with the average life span, projections indicate the number of older adults living in nursing homes will double between 2000 and 2050. Laws have been enacted to protect this population's health and well-being; hence, by preserving the oral health of patients who reside in such facilities, dental professionals and LTCF staff enhance this patient population's quality of life; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 87th Texas Legislature to commission a Task Force to study and present recommendations to the Governor and Legislature for ways to improve the oral care of residents in LTCFs.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 30, 2020, by the Health & Human Resources Committee.


Sue Wilson, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.


Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST: 
Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Health & Human Resources

**Amend Texas Telemedicine Law to Include
Teledentistry Services**

A RESOLUTION TO: Help bridge the dental services gap in rural areas.

WHEREAS, Fifteen percent of Texans reside in rural areas where only 7% of dentists practice; and

WHEREAS, Teledentistry has the potential to bridge the gap in rural oral health care access by allowing dental consultation to occur remotely via teleconferences between providers and patients; and

WHEREAS, In Texas, Medicaid has reimbursed telemedicine services for two decades; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 87th Texas Legislature amends Texas law authorizing Medicaid reimbursed telemedicine services to include teledentistry services.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 30, 2020, by the Health & Human Resources Committee.


Sue Wilson, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.


Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST: 
Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

By: Paul Stempko, Linda Parrish, Ted Hubert, Irene Andrews, and Barbara Aydlett

R017

Committee: Health & Human Resources

Offer the Citizens of Texas the Opportunity to Vote on the Expansion of Medicaid

A RESOLUTION TO: Offer Texans the opportunity to vote on the federal option to expand Medicaid in Texas.

WHEREAS, Texas remains one of only 14 U.S. States that has not chosen to expand Medicaid, allowing our portion of the federal Medicaid dollars (\$114.2 billion to date) to be given to the participating 36 states who have opted to expand Medicaid services; and

WHEREAS, Texas has the highest numbers of uninsured people (4.7 million) in the country, with 1.2 million more who could be covered if our state determined to expand Medicaid (Kaiser Foundation); moreover, 15,600 Older Texans (ages 55-64) have died prematurely (2014-2019) because of our state's decision not to expand Medicaid (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Nov. 6, 2019); and

WHEREAS, Texas has had 19 rural hospitals close since 2014, the first year of Medicaid expansion. This is due, in no small part, to the missed opportunity of uncompensated treatment that could have been funded by Medicaid expansion, thus saving both rural hospitals, communities, and lives of older Texans. Texas was given a D- grade and ranked 36th out of 47 states for mortality, quality of life, and healthcare (Texas Tech Hall Institute for Rural and Community Health) and was also given a D- by Rural Health Quarterly for the state's rural healthcare; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 87th Texas Legislature passes legislation to offer the citizens of Texas the opportunity to vote on the expansion of Medicaid to influence the issue of health and mortality rates of older Texans.

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 1, 2020, by the Health & Human Resources Committee.


Sue Wilson, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.


Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST: 
Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

TSHL PRIORITY #4

BY: Sue Wilson, Barbara Aydtlett, Nancy Hardin, Linda Parrish, Carol Peters, and Chris Shoop **R018**

Committee: Health & Human Resources

Increase Medicaid Reimbursement to Improve the Quality of Texas Nursing Home Care

A RESOLUTION TO: Improve the quality of care and quality of life of individuals whose health care is at least partially paid for by Medicaid through increased Medicaid reimbursement and a Medicaid payment methodology that financially incentivizes quality care and provides for needed access to quality care for individuals who are Medicaid-eligible.


WHEREAS, The Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) reports that the state and federal consolidated budget for the 2020-2021 budget cycle, if paid according to the current Medicaid nursing home rate methodology, is underfunded by \$946M, of which the state portion is \$382M and drives overall reimbursement down since 70% of the resident population is Medicaid-eligible, all of whom have medical necessity and a major portion of whom also live with cognitive impairment, behavioral health needs, and emotional, social, and spiritual needs; and

WHEREAS, This significant underfunding creates challenges for providers to maintain needed staffing levels; provide professional development; and encourage a culture of full engagement for residents, employees, and residents' family members. Further, it delays upgrades to medical equipment and renovations to existing buildings which may be needed to ensure adequate access to care and maximize quality outcomes for residents; and

WHEREAS, In the current managed care environment there is a need to align the quality financial incentives of managed and health care providers to support appropriate levels of clinical and direct care staffing, staff retention, and staff development; reduce administrative burdens; and streamline regulations to focus on quality outcomes rather than added paperwork; now, therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, That the 18th Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 87th Texas Legislature to increase general revenue funds paid to Medicaid-certified nursing homes, combined with a payment methodology that includes financial incentives and accountability by both managed care and providers to improve the quality of care provided to Medicaid residents, to focus regulations on resident care, and to maintain needed access to long-term care for Medicaid-eligible individuals.

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 1, 2020, by the Health & Human Resources Committee.


Sue Wilson, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.


Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST: 
Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Health & Human Resources

Require a Criminal Background Check for CNAs and LVNs in Nursing Homes, Assisted Living Facilities, and Home Health Companies

RESOLUTION TO: Require a criminal background check of Certified Nurse's 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 re-certified hundreds of nursing-home aides with serious criminal histories; and

WHEREAS, In the state of 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 checks when initially certifying CNAs and LVN licensure but are not required to perform subsequent criminal background checks. These state DPS background checks may not cover any cases that occurred after the initial check nor in other states; 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 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 87th Texas Legislature to instruct Texas Health and Human Services (HHS) to implement a criminal background check to be repeated before CNAs and LVNs are re-certified/license renewed to work in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and home health companies.

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 1, 2020, by the Health & Human Resources Committee.


Sue Wilson, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.


Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST: 
Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

TSHL PRIORITY #8

By: Jetta Roberts, Sharon Brazeal, Albert Campbell, Scott Christensen, Sherry Hubbard, **R020**
Lynda Mitchell, and Sue Wilson

Committee: Health & Human Resources

Increase the Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) for Medicaid Residents in Nursing Homes

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

WHEREAS, The PNA covers the cost of basics not covered by Medicaid and provides these citizens a means to make limited personal choices, enhance self-esteem, and the ability to positively engage with life inside and outside the nursing home. It provides a modicum of dignity for older Texans with serious medical conditions and challenges, enhances their quality of life, and reduces negative factors on their mental health; and

WHEREAS, The Texas Human Resources Code ("Code") provides for a monthly PNA for Medicaid residents of nursing homes licensed under Chapter 242 of the Health and Safety Code to pay for basic personal items such as clothing, shoes, certain toiletries/hygiene/supplement products, certain incontinence products, hair-cutting/grooming services, stationery and postage to communicate with family and friends, subscription to reading materials, and snacks from the home's vending machine – to name a few; and

WHEREAS, Since the Code set this allowance at not less than sixty (\$60.00)/month in 2005, and it has not been increased for the 14-year period (2005-2019) despite a steady increase in the costs of those personal needs items, (the Consumer Price Index increased by 31%), it is unclear what essential items this vulnerable population must choose to forego; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature encourages and strongly recommends that the 87th Texas Legislature increases the Personal Needs Allowance for Medicaid residents in nursing homes to no less than seventy-five (\$75.00)/month effective 09/01/2021.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 27, 2020, by the Retirement & Aging Committee.



Irene Andrews, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST: 
Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

COVID-19 RELATED RESOLUTION

By: Viola Hebert

R021

Committee: Health & Human Resources

Require COVID 19 Testing for Residents and Staff in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities

RESOLUTION TO: Require widespread testing at nursing homes and assisted living facilities, hereafter collectively referred to as Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCFs), with confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19 to detect potential carriers among residents or staff that could spark an outbreak, and at facilities with no confirmed cases, recommend the testing of 20% of staff and residents weekly.

WHEREAS, Staff and residents in Texas' 1,227 LTCFs are at increased risk for contracting the coronavirus. The coronavirus has raced through the nation's 15,000 LTCFs, of which many have become the epicenter for COVID-19 related deaths - killing thousands of America's most vulnerable older adults. Meanwhile, having no federal mandate to test, testing varies widely across facilities, counties, even within the same states and communities, leaving families fearing for their loved ones' lives while the death toll rises among this high-risk population; and

WHEREAS, At least 27,700 residents and workers at LTCFs have died from the coronavirus, according to a *New York Times* database, May 7, 2020. In the state of Texas, nearly half of all COVID-19 deaths are related to a LTCF. News sources reveal 44 percent of Texas' 663 COVID-19 deaths are from residents in LTCFs; and

WHEREAS, The risk of contracting the coronavirus is compounded among residents and staff in LTCFs due to contributing factors such as, dense living quarters, physical or cognitive limitations, and lack of mobility (e.g. many residents cannot drive to testing locations); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 87th Texas Legislature to instruct Texas Health and Human Services (HHS) along with the Texas Division of Emergency Management, and The Texas Department of State Health Services to develop and implement a plan requiring widespread testing at LTCFs with confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19, and the testing of 20% of staff and residents weekly in those facilities with no confirmed cases.

PASSED AND APPROVED on June 2, 2020, by the Health & Human Resources Committee.


Sue Wilson, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.


Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST: 
Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

TSHL PRIORITY #2

BY: Jetta Roberts, Albert Campbell, and Pat J. Porter

R022

Committee: Human Services

Preserve or Increase Funding for Home-Delivered Meals

A RESOLUTION TO: Ensure that funding at all levels of the State government is increased for meals that are delivered to the homes of older adults.

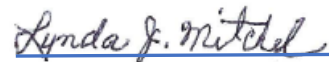
WHEREAS, Home-delivered meals in Texas are a critical lifeline to many isolated, lonely, and frail older adults; and

WHEREAS, The social contact of the person delivering meals daily is an important preventative to premature institutionalization and health emergencies; 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 and supplies and the anticipated growth of the older population in Texas; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 87th Texas Legislature to preserve or increase current funding for home-delivered meals to older adults.

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 1, 2020, by the Human Services Committee.



Lynda J. Mitchell, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST: 

Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Human Services

**Provide Funding to 28 AAAs to Identify and Provide Services to
Texans Living Alone with Dementia**

A RESOLUTION TO: Provide funding to the 28 Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) to screen and identify persons with dementia (PWD) living alone and link the PWD with needed services by forming partnerships with community-based organizations and overseeing the coordinated approach.

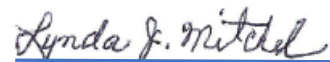
WHEREAS, Currently, 390,000 Texans have Alzheimer's disease or other dementia diagnoses, this number is the tip of the iceberg of people with dementia; 101,400 (26%) PWD live alone, some without a caregiver or a contact person, thus placing the PWD at increased risks for self-neglect, financial exploitation, medication mismanagement, inability to respond to emergencies, safety, and increased use and cost of health care services, among others; and

WHEREAS, A PWD living alone slips through the cracks; the PWD is likely not receiving community services, thus remaining unknown and unassisted as dementia progresses and may die in the home alone. In order to receive comprehensive care coordination of services, the PWD living alone must be identified and screened, thus enabling the PWD to live as independently as possible in his/her chosen setting; and

WHEREAS, The 28 AAAs, designated by the Older Americans Act to provide services to help people age 60 and older, have a system of access, assistance, and ability to collaborate with other community-based providers; thus, is the recommended agency to complete the task of identifying PWD living alone with and without a caregiver or contact person. Two evidence-based models, Model for Alzheimer's/Dementia Service in Tarrant County and the Houston Alliance to Address Dementia, have been found to be effective methods and can be replicated in all AAAs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 87th Texas Legislature passes legislation to appropriate \$100,000 to each of the 28 Area Agencies on Aging for a total of \$2.8 million to identify persons with dementia living alone with or without an identified caregiver or contact person, assess the needs, establish support systems, and provide access to services.

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 1, 2020, by the Human Services Committee.



Lynda J. Mitchell, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Human Services

Establish a Minimum Staffing Ratio for Alzheimer's-Certified Assisted Living Facilities

A RESOLUTION TO: Require a minimum direct care staff-to-resident ratio that is evidence-based and addresses supervision needs of residents in Alzheimer's-certified Assisted Living Facilities.

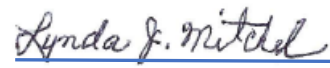
WHEREAS, Texas Health and Human Services is charged with creating and enforcing standards for Alzheimer's certification of assisted living facilities (ALFs) and nursing facilities (NFs) that provide services to residents with Alzheimer's disease or related disorders. Thirty-two percent of ALFs are Alzheimer's-certified with a total capacity of 19,605 residents, compared to only three percent of NFs with a total capacity of 1,217 residents. Residents living in ALFs or NFs with Alzheimer's and related disorders have similar needs; therefore, requirements for Alzheimer's certification in NFs and ALFs should be similar; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's-certified NFs are required to maintain minimum ratios of direct care staffing which are essential to providing residents with dementia ample supervision, quality activities, and health care. Alzheimer's certified ALFs do not have a minimum staffing ratio which puts vulnerable residents at increased risk of abuse, neglect, exploitation, and poor care; and

WHEREAS, Residents in Alzheimer's-certified ALFs usually live in a locked environment, making them vulnerable to "supervision by segregation" rather than being attended to by sufficient staff who can identify and care for the individual needs of each resident. Requiring minimum staffing for direct care staff will help ensure residents have appropriate supervision to keep them safe and well-cared for; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 87th Texas Legislature passes legislation to implement the rule that establishes a minimum staffing ratio in Alzheimer's-certified ALFs; and to add such language to Health and Safety Code §247.029(b) to read as follows: (b) The Executive Commissioner shall adopt minimum standards for an assisted living facility classified under this section. The standards should include a minimum direct care staff-to-resident ratio that is evidence-based and addresses the supervision needs of residents with dementia.

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 1, 2020, by the Human Services Committee.



Lynda J. Mitchell, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, 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 Independent Blindness Program**

A RESOLUTION TO: Support the Texas Workforce Commission's mission of providing services to older Texans who are blind by adding additional positions to the Older Blind Independent Living Program.

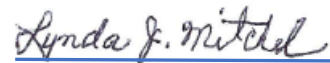
WHEREAS, There are currently in Texas approximately 450,000 older adults over the age of 55 classified as legally blind, and over the next 15 years that number is expected to grow by a quarter million to more than 700,000; and

WHEREAS, Older persons who lose their vision have difficulty performing normal daily living activities like cooking, cleaning, shopping, doing laundry, reading their mail, paying bills, and they have a higher risk of falling, of experiencing injury, depression, and poor general health; and

WHEREAS, While older persons who lose their vision need to receive one-on-one services in their homes to help them adjust to their vision loss and remain in their homes and not have to move into nursing homes, there are currently just 14 trained specialists with the Texas Workforce Commission's Older Independent Blindness Program to serve visually impaired older Texans statewide who currently need these services, let alone the projected future population of older adults; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature calls upon the 87th Texas Legislature to adequately expand services to older blind Texans by funding additional positions within the TWC's Older Independent Blindness Program.

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 1, 2020, by the Human Services Committee.



Lynda J. Mitchell, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Rebalance the Texas System for Community Care and Institutionalization

A RESOLUTION TO: Revisit the review process of State-Supported Living Centers (SSLC) for the purpose of continuing the deinstitutionalization process that successfully began in the early 1990s in Texas.

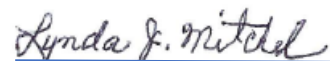
WHEREAS, The population residing in state institutions is aging and diminishing with fewer families choosing this living option for their family members; at the same time the costs of institutionalization are increasing—currently estimated to be in excess of \$200,000 annually per person-- resulting in resources for community settings being negatively affected; and

WHEREAS, The State of Texas has received numerous reports from the Department of Justice, among others, citing safety violations targeting the residents, as well as the increasing awareness that most Texans prefer living in their own communities, but the waiting lists for receiving community services are well over multiple decades; and

WHEREAS, The State of Texas has a successful model, House Bill 7, which was passed by the 72nd Texas Legislature resulting in the successful closure of two of the State's 13 institutions saving the taxpayers millions of dollars and successfully placing residents in communities or consolidating residents in the remaining centers and has been reconsidered in the last legislative sessions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 87th Texas Legislature to pass legislation, similar to HB 7 of the 72nd Legislature, to create an independent "Facilities Review Task Force" to determine the feasibility and future of the State-Supported Living Centers.

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 1, 2020, by the Human Services Committee.



Lynda J. Mitchell, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, 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 (TLRPC)

A RESOLUTION TO: Increase the funding of the Texas Lifespan Respite Care Program (TLRCP) to twenty-million dollars per biennium.

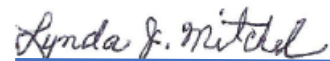
WHEREAS, According to the AARP report, "Valuing the Invaluable," Texas family caregivers provide an estimated 2.9 billion hours of unpaid family caregiving annually – about \$35 billion worth of care which is more than the entire Texas Medicaid program, federal and state spending combined; and

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 which may take the form of in-home or out-of-home respite care; and

WHEREAS, The economic value that unpaid family caregivers provide to Texas and the fact that family caregivers help keep loved ones at home and out of costly institutions, which may held the state avoid future spending on Medicaid institutional long-term care, makes economic sense for the state to invest in respite care for a more significant number of unpaid family caregivers, giving them the 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 Texas Silver-Haired Legislature (TSHL) urges the 87th Texas Legislature to increase state General Revenue funding to \$20.0 million (per biennium) to the Texas Lifespan Respite Care Program (TLRCP) with input from TSHL on the statewide methodology to distribute TLRCP funds to unpaid family caregivers enabling them to continue to support their loved ones at home for as long as appropriate.

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 1, 2020, by the Human Services Committee.



Lynda J. Mitchell, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Human Services

**Develop Family Caregiver Training for Families of Older Adults
and People with Disabilities**

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

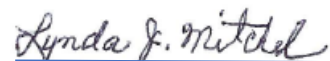
WHEREAS, About 6% of adults with an intellectual disability will be affected by some form of dementia after the age of 60 (with the percentage increasing with age) and for adults with Down Syndrome, studies show that at least 25% will be affected with dementia after age 40 and at least 50% to 70% will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

WHEREAS, There are at least 425,000 adults with an intellectual disability and cognitive decline (dementia and MCI) in the United States. Furthermore, estimates drawn from the 2013 State of the States report also suggest that there may be over 300,000 adults with developmental disabilities and dementia currently living at home with older family caregivers and perhaps twice as many living in out-of-family-home settings; and

WHEREAS, Most 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 supports for adults with intellectual disability 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 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature encourages and strongly recommends that the 87th Texas Legislature instructs HHS to develop an ongoing, proactive family care-giver training initiative focused on preventing out-of-home facility placement due to problematic behavioral challenges in their adult children with intellectual and developmental disabilities and dementia, compounded by caregiver challenges experienced by older adults when caring for their disabled adult children.

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 1, 2020, by the Human Services Committee.



Lynda J. Mitchell, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Human Services

Ensure Adequate Funding for Senior Corps Programs in Texas

A RESOLUTION TO: Ensure adequate state funding in the 2021-2023 biennium for Senior Corps programs in Texas, including the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), the Foster Grandparents Program (FGP), and the Senior Companions Program (SCP).

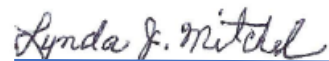
WHEREAS, Texas Senior Corps is the leading senior volunteer service partnership for solving community problems, strengthening communities, and building the capacity of nonprofit organizations in Texas by empowering over 29,000 volunteers, fifty-five and older, to make a difference every day through Senior Corps programs; and

WHEREAS, Through the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), state dollars leverage federal funding in the neighborhood of \$9 million to many of Texas' volunteer agencies, including Senior Corps programs. For example, in 2017 Texas added three new RSVP projects on a \$300,000 CNCS grant helping to grow senior volunteerism in our state; and

WHEREAS, Senior Corps programs have been held to level funding by the state legislature since FY 2011, yet the demands for volunteerism continue to expand in the Lone Star state as demographics place 65 and older adults as the state's fastest-growing segment of the population; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 87th Texas Legislature to authorize Health and Human Services to increase funding for Texas Senior Corps by three percent (3%) in its 2021-2023 biennium budget to better serve the increasing needs of the community.

PASSED AND APPROVED on May 1, 2020, by the Human Services Committee.



Lynda J. Mitchell, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

COVID-19 RELATED RESOLUTION

By: Linda Timmerman and Rhonda Rogers

R030

Committee: Human Services

Preserve Funding for State Agencies That Provide Essential Services and Support for Older Texans

A RESOLUTION TO: Assure that Texas state agencies that provide essential services and support for Texans over 65, who comprise approximately 12% of the total population of the State, are adequately funded in the 2022-2023 biennium.

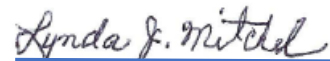
WHEREAS, Texas Health and Human Services provides a range of services for older Texans and helped ensure their well-being, dignity, and choice during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, The 28 Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) provide services to help older Texans, their family members, and caregivers receive the information and assistance they need in locating and accessing community services targeted to those with greatest economic and social need with particular attention paid to older adults with low incomes, to those who belong to minority groups, and to those who reside in rural areas; and

WHEREAS, Texas Adult Protective Services seeks to protect older adults from abuse, neglect, and exploitation by investigating and providing or arranging for services as necessary to alleviate or prevent further maltreatment; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 18th Silver-Haired Texas Legislature strongly urges the 87th Texas Legislature to take full advantage of any federal legislation and funding available and, if necessary, to use the Economic Stabilization Fund as intended: a safeguard against harmful cuts to essential state services provided by Texas Health and Human Services, Texas Area Agencies on Aging, and Texas Adult Protective Services, when developing the 2022-2023 budget for the State of Texas.

PASSED AND APPROVED on June 15, 2020, by the Human Services Committee.



Lynda J. Mitchell, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

By: Paul Stempko, Sue Wilson, Linda Parrish, Mary Pat Smith, and Betty Lee Streckfuss

R031

Committee: Retirement & Aging

**Allow Licensed Physicians to Legally Prescribe Medical Cannabis and
Support Evidence-Based Testing of Cannabis**

A RESOLUTION TO: Allow authorized licensed physicians to prescribe cannabis for medical purposes for persons of all ages suffering from intractable pain and other debilitating conditions without fear of prosecution of the patient or caregiver, and support evidence-based testing of cannabis in Texas medical facilities and research labs.

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 personal, individual decisions made by patients and their licensed healthcare professionals. No patient or physician should face criminal charges under our Texas laws 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 veterans and other older, pain-riddled citizens thereby forcing them to either endure pain or rely on other pain-suppressing drugs that impose far riskier side effects not associated with the use of medical cannabis, such as gastrointestinal issues, cardiac damage, and addiction; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 87th Texas Legislature to promote evidence-based testing of cannabis in Texas's major medical facilities and their outlying annex medical centers to ensure only safe and effective cannabis products are legalized and to enact laws similar to those in effect in a steadily growing list of states which allow authorized physicians to prescribe and administer cannabis for medical purposes without fear of being prosecuted under state laws enacted to curb the illicit and destructive use of drugs.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 25, 2020, by the Retirement & Aging Committee.



Irene Andrews, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Retirement & Aging

Supplemental Funding Plan for the State Employee Retirement System

A RESOLUTION TO: Establish a supplemental funding appropriation plan to strengthen the State Employee Retirement System (ERS) Pension and achieve actuarial soundness.

WHEREAS, ERS is a defined-benefit (DB) retirement plan established by constitutional amendment, funded by employee and State contributions and pension trust fund investment earnings, to provide a retirement annuity to ERS retirees; the State is capped on its constitutional maximum contribution rate of 10% of salary; and, the Pension is not actuarially sound by industry standards or statutory requirements - funded ratio of 70.5% and a "never funding" period of the pension UAAL (2019). The actuaries state, "The current financial outlook for ERS is very poor." This leads to the following:

- Lack of long-term retirement security for ERS-covered retirees; No COLA possibilities.
- State funding challenges that will only grow in significance over time if not addressed.
- Increased scrutiny/reputational risk with required GASB pension debt reporting.
- Potential risk of lowered credit ratings (higher borrowing cost) for State bonds; and

WHEREAS, "...the State failed to meet this (statutory ERS contribution rate) requirement in all but two years from 1988 through 2013. By one estimate, this cost the ERS pension fund more than \$1.1 billion in contributions between 1991 and 2011 alone" (State Comptroller Fiscal Notes [Special Edition, March 2017]). And, a proposed \$300 million supplement in 2019 was not approved. \$1.1 billion (plus modest earnings since 2011) plus \$300 million would have raised the 2019 funded ratio from 70.5% to approximately 75%; and

WHEREAS, other solutions, such as selling pension bonds, creates more Texas public debt - a practice that the GFOA does not recommend; and conversion to a defined contribution plan for new employees only increases the pension debt (UAAL), thus exacerbating the "never funding" of the UAAL for the State and the remaining DB pensioners; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature strongly urges the 87th Texas Legislature to respond to this emergency and establish a long-term annual supplemental funding plan to achieve sound ERS pension status, provide fund security for ERS retirees, reduce significant future State catch-up funding cost, and avoid potential ratings downgrades.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 27, 2020, by the Retirement & Aging Committee.



Irene Andrews, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.


Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST: 
Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Retirement & Aging

**Reject Conversion of Teacher Retirement System (TRS) Pension
from Defined- Benefit (DB) to Defined-Contribution (DC) Plan**

A RESOLUTION TO: Reject any, and all, proposed legislation to convert the TRS Defined-Benefit (DB) Pension Plan to a Defined-Contribution (DC) Plan.

WHEREAS, Conversion of the DB Pension Plan to a DC Plan for new employees would be very costly upfront, encounter extreme funding challenges endangering the long-term health of the existing DB Plan, and incur the cost to manage two systems; specifically:

- There would be an immediate addition to the DB unfunded actuarial accrued liability (pension debt), estimated at \$15.5 billion (greater than the 2019 "Rainy Day" fund balance), as determined in a 2018 TRS Pension Design study, making the Plan unsound;
- The State would have to find new sources of funds to replace both the State and employee contributions lost from new employees participating in a DC Plan, or significantly jeopardize the annuity payments to future TRS retirees still on the DB Plan;
- Investment income (normally a source of well over half of TRS annual revenue) would decrease over time due to a decreasing investable balance in the TRS trust; and
- The State would need to operate two retirement systems for 50+ years, increasing operating costs; and

WHEREAS, The TRS DB Plan provides a secure method for TRS retirees to receive a monthly lifetime annuity payment, and, as of August 2019, the Pension's UAAL funding/amortization period for actuarial soundness was at 29 years (better than the 31 years statutory maximum). And, TRS has a plan through FY 2025 for an equitable and sound increase of funding contribution rates (SB 12 in 2019); and

WHEREAS, SB 12 (2019) has established a plan for ongoing, equitable management of State, employee, and employer contribution rates to maintain actuarial soundness of the DB Plan; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature strongly urges the 87th Texas Legislature to reject any, and all, proposed legislation for the conversion of the TRS Defined-Benefit Plan to a Defined-Contribution Plan, for financial exposure and operating cost reasons, and to maintain a predictable pension security for TRS retirees.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 27, 2020, by the Retirement & Aging Committee.



Irene Andrews, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Retirement & Aging

Reform TRS-CARE by Increasing the State's Contribution Rate (Committed Funding)

A RESOLUTION TO: Reform TRS-CARE by incrementally increasing the State's contribution rate in FY 2022 and FY 2023 for equitable and stable longer-term funding.

WHEREAS, TRS-Care was established in 1986 to provide retiree health care insurance that would be funded on a shared basis, by State, school district, and active-employee contributions, and, with premiums (and out-of-pocket costs) paid by TRS retirees. However, the State has solved over \$1.6 billion in shortfalls with one-time, supplemental fixes between FY 2004 and FY 2019 rather than periodic incremental increases to all funding parties. As a result, 2017 State legislation resulted in significant premium increases to TRS retirees (as high as 135%) plus higher deductibles, starting in 2018. And, the State's contribution rate was only increased by 25% (from 1.0% to 1.25% of salary) in 2017. In 2019 the 2020-21 biennium's projected shortfall of \$231 million was also solved with a one-time supplement; and

WHEREAS, The TRS-CARE fund balance was at a strong level of almost \$1.3 billion at FYE 2019, a material part of this gain in fund balance was due to large increases in premiums and deductibles for those insureds who remained in the program combined with decreased claims due, also materially, to those who left the program due to the higher cost - total insured membership went from 268,427 to 225,297 between FYE 2017 and FYE 2019. TRS-CARE, though providing comprehensive coverage, was now viewed as unaffordable by approximately 15% of the insureds. Even with some projected increase in fund balance short-term, material shortfalls are projected in 2023-24 (2019 Health Benefits Report – TRS); and

WHEREAS, A TRS-covered active employee who averages \$60,000 salary over a 35-year career will, combined with his/her local district funding, contribute almost \$30,000 total in advance of retirement toward TRS-CARE. "Will TRS-Care last? - Can I afford it? - What should I do?" - should not be questions about which a TRS-covered employee or retiree, contributing in advance toward the program, should have to worry; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature strongly urges the 87th Texas Legislature to incrementally increase the State's contribution rate to 1.5% of salary in FY 2022 and 1.75% in FY 2023 prior to ANY consideration of increasing retiree costs (premiums, deductibles, out-of-pocket expenses) or decreasing benefits provided.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 27, 2020, by the Retirement & Aging Committee.



Irene Andrews, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Retirement & Aging

Assurance for Safe and Affordable Housing for LGBTQ Older Adults

A RESOLUTION TO: Create a task force to determine the need and potential solutions for safe and affordable housing for older adults who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer/questioning.

WHEREAS, Over seventy-seven million U.S. citizens reached the age of 65 in 2012 and at least 1.5 million of that number are known to be LGBTQ, a number expected to double by 2030 (Services and Advocacy for LGBT Elders); and

WHEREAS, Texas currently has no housing discrimination protections for LGBTQ individuals, meaning that they can legally be evicted or denied tenancy based on sexual orientation or gender identity. For older adults, downsizing or moving after the loss of a partner can sometimes mean going back into the closet for fear of not being accepted in their new living facility. This is especially true for transgender older adults; and

WHEREAS, U.S. anti-discrimination laws prohibit gay-only public housing, and private targeted LGBTQ housing is financially prohibitive, especially for the 49% of Americans over 65 considered to be poor or low-income (U.S. Census); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 87th Texas Legislature to form a Task Force, consisting of over 50% of members as representatives of the LGBTQ community, including elders of that community, to study the issue of safe and affordable housing of LGBTQ older adults in Texas resulting in a report to the Governor, Legislature, and the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 27, 2020, by the Retirement & Aging Committee.



Irene Andrews, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Retirement & Aging

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

A RESOLUTION TO: Continue funding the 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 at Dallas, 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 University of Texas Rio Grande Valley; and

WHEREAS, TARCC maintains a large, well characterized research cohort containing longitudinal clinical, neuropsychiatric, genetic, and blood biomarker data on more than 3600 participants diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease (AD), mild cognitive impairment (MCI), and normal study controls which enables TARCC investigators to model changes in cognitive function over time, allowing identification of factors that affect not only risk, but disease progression; 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 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 87th 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 an increased level for the biennial budget.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 26, 2020, by the Retirement & Aging Committee.



Irene Andrews, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Retirement and Aging

Simplify Certification and Recertification Process for SNAP

A RESOLUTION TO: Simplify the certification and recertification process for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for certain persons aged 60 and older.

WHEREAS, Participation in SNAP is one of the most effective ways for older adults to reduce food insecurity and improve health outcomes. Older adults with unmet nutritional needs experience more chronic health conditions; longer recovery time from illnesses, surgery, and wounds; and a higher risk of falls. Eligible older adults are less likely to participate in SNAP than other demographic groups due to a variety of factors. Older adults receiving SNAP benefits are more likely to live alone and have less access to assistance; and

WHEREAS, SNAP enables older adults to shift their financial resources towards needed medical care including prescriptions and healthier food. Providing older adults with at least minimal resources to meet their basic nutritional needs enhances their ability to age in place within their rural or urban communities with dignity at a lower cost than institutional care, reduces food insecurity, and improves health outcomes. A cumbersome application process that includes a lengthy application, along with decreased mobility, often unreliable transportation options, and lack of access to and ability to use technology create significant obstacles for older adults applying and recertifying for SNAP. Over half of eligible older adults nationwide did not participate in SNAP due in large part to the intimidating and challenging enrollment process. Financial assets of older adults currently receiving SNAP are unlikely to improve significantly during the current recertification time frame since social security and pension benefits are relatively stable; and

WHEREAS, A less daunting SNAP application with a simplified verification process could encourage more eligible older adults to apply for benefits. An expanded recertification time frame and the elimination of the recertification interview can reduce the administrative burden on the State and improve organizational efficiency; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 87th Texas Legislature adopts a simplified application and recertification process for SNAP for older adults that includes a shorter application and extends the recertification period to 36 months from the current six to twelve-month time frame.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 27, 2020, by the Retirement & Aging Committee.



Irene Andrews, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Retirement & Aging

Reinstate Free Fishing Licenses for Texans 65 and Older

A RESOLUTION TO: Reinstate free fishing licenses to Texas residents 65 years and older as provided prior to 1995.

WHEREAS, Prior to 1995, Texan residents 65 years of age and older were recognized and honored by the Texas legislature to receive a free fishing license; and

WHEREAS, In 1995, the Texas governor signed into law, HB1785, phasing out this program and placing a financial charge on older Texans that became effective September 1, 1995, 25 years ago. Under the 1995 law, Texans born before January 1, 1931, (currently 89 years of age or older) are eligible to receive free fishing licenses; however, Texans born after January 1, 1931, must purchase a "Senior Package" which generates revenue for the state and lessens the recognition and honor once granted to these older Texans; and

WHEREAS, Reciprocity agreements with Oklahoma and Louisiana allow their residents 65 years and older to fish Texas' waters free of charge. Older Texans should have equal opportunities to fish Texas' waters as granted to older adults in neighboring states; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature requests that the 87th Texas Legislature restore the recognition, honor, and privilege once granted to Texans 65 years of age and older by stopping the phase-out program and reinstating the free fishing licenses to Texas residents 65 years of age or older.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 26, 2020, by the Retirement & Aging Committee.



Irene Andrews, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.


Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Retirement & Aging

Support Construction of New and Preservation of Existing Affordable Housing Units

A RESOLUTION TO: Support more funding for the construction of more affordable housing that will benefit low-income older adults.

WHEREAS, Fifteen percent (15%) of older adults live below the poverty level and nearly half, forty-five percent (45%), are living at two times the poverty level, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation's research on Supplemental Poverty Level data; and

WHEREAS, Rent and mortgage payments are generally among the highest monthly household expenses. Many older Texans live on reduced or fixed incomes, and in order to afford the increasing construction costs of new and preservation of existing affordable housing, they cut back on other necessities such as food and medical care; and

WHEREAS, Over the next 13 years, the baby-boomer population is expected to increase the number of older Texans by 60%, to over 6.5 million; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 87th Texas Legislature allocates additional tax credit incentives for developers and additional funding for the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs that specifically targets low-income older adults.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 29, 2020, by the Retirement & Aging Committee.



Irene Andrews, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Retirement & Aging

Extension of Homestead Property Tax Exemptions

A RESOLUTION TO: Extend the property tax freeze and exemptions on homestead property owned by older Texans who live in senior facilities and depend upon rental income from their homestead to pay expenses.

WHEREAS, In 2003, Texas voters gave cities the ability to cap property tax bills for Texans 65 years and older 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 county, school district, or city government 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 a senior property owner moves or dies, the full value of the property returns to the tax rolls. This drastic increase in taxes has a negative impact on older Texans with limited resources and who are dependent upon the rental income from their homestead to pay expenses; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 87th Texas Legislature to modify the ...TEXAS TAX CODE - TITLE 1. "PROPERTY TAX CODE" - SUBTITLE C. "TAXABLE PROPERTY AND EXEMPTIONS" - CHAPTER 11. "TAXABLE PROPERTY AND EXEMPTIONS" to permit Texans over the age of 65 to retain the property tax freeze and exemptions on their homestead property if they are living in senior facilities and depend on rental income from their homestead to pay their expenses.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 29, 2020, by the Retirement & Aging Committee.



Irene Andrews, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Rural – Urban Affairs

**Tuition Reimbursement for Volunteers for Rural Volunteer Fire Departments and Other
Emergency Services**

A RESOLUTION TO: Establish a \$16,000 per volunteer (up to \$4,000 per year for four consecutive years) tuition reimbursement program for volunteers with fire departments, rescue companies, or emergency services in rural Texas counties only. The purpose is to recruit volunteers more readily for First Responder duties in rural counties.

WHEREAS, New recruits for the Texas network of emergency services are declining each year, and it is getting difficult to recruit emergency volunteers in rural areas. Enhanced emergency services protecting our 172 rural counties is critical where the median county-level percentage of those 65 and over is approximately 18.5% and ranges as high as 36%. And, these are the people most vulnerable in fire or medical emergency situations; and

WHEREAS, Heavily populated urban areas are typically covered by paid departments, but rural areas rely heavily on volunteers. Effective recruitment and retention are vital for public safety, and a tuition reimbursement grant would attract those pursuing education and wanting to minimize student debt. A grant of up to \$16,000 per volunteer in tuition reimbursement is desired for four consecutive years of service for any successful completion of courses at a public university, college, community college, or trade/technical school. Eligibility would begin after one year of volunteer service, and volunteer status must continue while enrolled. Current volunteer status would be certified by the appropriate fire/EMS provider when reimbursement is requested; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends the 87th Texas Legislature authorizes the granting of \$16,000 total tuition reimbursement per emergency services volunteer attending any of the Texas public institutions specified above.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 28, 2020, by the Rural – Urban Affairs Committee.



Sharon Brazeal, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Rural – Urban Affairs

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 \$0.10/\$100 taxable value to \$0.15/\$100 for ESDs in rural counties.

WHEREAS,

- ESDs are political subdivisions of the State, and 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; and, this is an out-of-date, one size fits all restriction, especially for Rural County ESDs; and,
- 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 citizens 65 and older (2018 median rural county level rate of almost 19% - txcip.org data) than urban areas. This population is the most vulnerable when fire or health emergencies (EMS) occur. Rural counties comprise 68% of the 254 Texas counties (U.S. - OMB), and Texas received a D- in Rural Healthcare (Texas Tech University – Hall Institute for Rural & Community Health, Dec. 2017) – EMS is a critical lifeline. And, as of 2019, 156 of the State's 330 ESDs (47%) are "capped out" with a tax rate of \$.09/\$100 of taxable value or above; and

WHEREAS, This constitutional amendment will not encourage runaway taxes. Chapter 775 of the Health and Safety Code and Truth in Taxation Laws mandate local voter control of property tax maximums and tax rate increases. And, voters must approve any increase in the maximum authorized tax rate. 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. The \$.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, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature strongly urges the 87th Texas Legislature to approve a proposed constitutional amendment to increase the \$0.10/\$100 of taxable value maximum property tax rate to \$.15/\$100 for ESDs in rural counties.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 28, 2020, by the Rural – Urban Affairs Committee.



Sharon Brazeal, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

By: Sherry Hubbard and Pat J. Porter

R043

Committee: Rural – Urban Affairs

Increase Access to Healthcare for Older Adults via Telemedicine

A RESOLUTION TO: Increase access to healthcare for older adults in medically underserved rural and urban areas in Texas via telemedicine.

WHEREAS, The population of Texas is approximately 28.3 million, the second most populous and second largest state in America. However, a majority of the rural and urban counties are “medically underserved areas” (MUAs), according to Health Resources and Services Administration. MUAs are “based on the demographics of the entire population in an area compared to national statistics for four health care demand/resource indicators: percentage of older adult population (65+ years), poverty rate, infant mortality rate, and the ratio of primary care physicians per 1,000 population”; and

WHEREAS, Lack of access to medical care has been well documented. Decreased mobility of the older adult population, affordable healthcare, and transportation remain major obstacles which could be corrected by the increased use of telemedicine; and

WHEREAS, Several medical facilities in Texas have started using telemedicine and could further enhance their programs by expanding them to allow patients to speak with doctors remotely without exposing themselves or anyone in the office. The services provided would include personalized care through high tech house calls, prescriptions, and 24/7 support. Adequate funding would increase access to care, decrease the cost of transportation, and improve the general health of Texas citizens, including the vulnerable older adults; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 87th Texas Legislature instructs Texas Health & Human Services to develop a telemedicine outreach model and provide funding for those institutions and free-standing medical practices that prove capable of using and expanding telemedicine in Texas.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 28, 2020, by the Rural – Urban Affairs Committee.



Sharon Brazeal, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Rural – Urban Affairs

Improve Access to Healthcare in Rural Texas for Older Adults.

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

WHEREAS, Access to healthcare in rural America, including Texas, is a significant 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 on a steep rise since 2010, resulting in the closure of 120 rural hospitals nationally. 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

WHEREAS, Twenty-five percent (25%) of Americans live in rural areas where only about 10 percent of doctors practice; 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 2019-20 session that would provide funding for rural healthcare facilities and services. At least 10 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 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 87th Texas Legislature passes legislation to improve access to healthcare in rural Texas for older adults.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 28, 2020, by the Rural – Urban Affairs Committee.



Sharon Brazeal, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

By: Carol Peters, Joe C. Henderson, and Barbara Williams

R045

Committee: Rural-Urban Affairs

Strengthen Public Policy and Initiatives to Expand Rural Broadband Infrastructure in Texas

A RESOLUTION TO: Further expand rural broadband infrastructure in Texas through communications systems in Texas and education for older adults in Texas about programs that broadband can make available to them.

WHEREAS, Decreased affordable health care, transportation, and mobility of the senior population in rural Texas could be mitigated by increased access to broadband telemedicine; and

WHEREAS, News-reading services for an ever-increasing sight-challenged population of older adults in rural Texas, disaster response networks for the elderly, lifelong learning options, and other quality-of-life services for older adults could be more readily available in expanded rural areas through increased, stronger, and better-advertised broadband infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, Lifeline rates and other more competitive rates for rural Texans and Texans with disabilities who qualify for social services could help provide better coordinated statewide first responders, homeland security and emergency preparedness, and rural economic development if broadband infrastructure could be implemented or expanded into more rural areas of the state; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 87th Texas Legislature passes legislation to strengthen and further expand access to broadband infrastructure through public and public/private funds and partnerships and other initiatives to facilitate the rapid expansion and upgrade throughout the state using technologies best suited to carry more rural services to the older adult population of Texas.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 28, 2020, by the Rural – Urban Affairs Committee.



Sharon Brazeal, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: State Affairs

Local Option Elections to Authorize Casinos

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

WHEREAS, Many citizens in Texas may reject casinos in their own communities while being willing to allow citizens in other parts of the state 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 other neighboring states 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 the state and local areas; and

WHEREAS, By authorizing local elections in State Senatorial Districts, the voters in those districts could decide for themselves whether the added revenue and jobs generated by allowing casinos to operate in their local communities would outweigh negative aspects of those casinos in their area; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 87th Texas Legislature to allow Texas voters to decide in a state-wide election whether to authorize local option elections to allow casinos to operate in those local areas.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 23, 2020, by the State Affairs Committee.


Mike Sandoval, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, 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 older adults to casinos in Oklahoma, Louisiana, and New Mexico for the purpose of patronizing casinos, most of which are owned by American Indian nations. Long-distance travel is expensive and presents safety problems for these older adults. Well-regulated casinos in Texas improve safety and entertainment for older adults while increasing tourism and provide additional revenue for the State; 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 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 87th Texas Legislature to authorize a vote on a Constitutional amendment allowing American Indian tribes to sponsor gaming activities on reservations.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 23, 2020, by the State Affairs Committee.


Mike Sandoval, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.


Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST: 
Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: State Affairs

Provide Assistive Listening Devices to Visitors at the Texas State Capitol

A RESOLUTION TO: Provide assistive listening devices to visitors at the Texas State Capitol.

WHEREAS, Many TSHL older adult citizen constituents and other persons with hearing impairments are visitors at the Texas State Capitol; and

WHEREAS, The Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities supports those with hearing impairments; and

WHEREAS, Persons visiting the Texas State Capitol should have assistive listening devices as their right to be able to conduct business and fully understand proceedings in the hearing rooms and House and Senate chambers; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 87th Texas Legislature to provide assistive listening devices for visitors at the Texas State Capitol.

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the State Affairs Committee.


Mike Sandoval, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.


Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST: 
Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: State Affairs

Enact Permanent Daylight Savings Time

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

WHEREAS, A German study of autopsies from 2000-2015 showed a significant uptick just after the spring 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 risk in Texas older adults; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 18th Silver-Haired Legislature recommends the 87th Texas Legislature supports the passage of a measure to enact permanent daylight-saving time.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 23, 2020, by the State Affairs Committee.


Mike Sandoval, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.


Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST: 
Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: State Affairs

Support Coordinated Funding for a Seamless and Integrated Transportation System

A RESOLUTION TO: Support coordinated funding for a seamless and integrated transportation system.


WHEREAS, Across Texas and the United States, the increasing need for public and human services transportation exceeds funding abilities. The population hit hardest by lack of funding are the transportation-disadvantaged who are 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 our 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 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature calls upon the 87th 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 23, 2020, by the State Affairs Committee.


Mike Sandoval, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.


Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST: 
Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

By: Albert Campbell, Elsie Whiteside, Linda Parrish, Ted Hubert, Doris Griffin,
Trini Garza, Stephen Coycault, Nancy Byler, Barbara Aydllett, and Irene Andrews

R051

Committee: State Affairs

Redistricting Reform Using an Independent Nonpartisan Commission

A RESOLUTION TO: Establish an independent, nonpartisan commission to draw State legislative and congressional districts according to data from the decennial census.

WHEREAS, Current Texas redistricting procedures create districts that dilute the voting strength of language, ethnic, and racial minorities; create unnatural and disjointed geographical boundaries; cause extensive delays in primary elections; and do not allow representatives to truly represent their constituents; and

WHEREAS, Redistricting at the pleasure of political parties in power institutionalize party-line voting, requires the intervention of courts, ensures that lawmakers will not face accountability, shrinks the political center, makes compromise almost impossible, loses independence of thought and action, and allows those in power to choose their voters instead of voters being able to choose their elected leaders. All these concerns are of particular interest to older Texans who take voting very seriously and consistently show up to vote; and

WHEREAS, Many states have successfully utilized nonpartisan commissions to designate contiguous geographical boundaries based upon equal populations and have eliminated prior voting, registration, ethnic, social, religious, and financial data for establishing legislative and congressional districts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature calls upon the 87th Texas Legislature to enact redistricting legislation to provide for a constitutional amendment or other necessary legislation to establish an independent, nonpartisan commission which allows redistricting to take place in an efficient and timely manner without political gridlock or gerrymandering.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 30, 2020, by the State Affairs Committee.


Mike Sandoval, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, 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 needs 600,000 acre-feet of water per year in just the Rio Grande Valley alone to satisfy the 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 those residents unable to relocate; 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 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 87th Texas Legislature to increase funding for the examination, exploration, and support for desalination technologies and facilities in Texas.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 28, 2020, by the Utilities and Natural Resources Committee.



Wayne Merrill, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Utilities & Natural Resources

**Continue, without Interruption, an Improved “Light-Duty
Motor Vehicle Purchase or Lease Incentive Program”**

A RESOLUTION TO: Continue the “Light-Duty Motor Vehicle Purchase or Lease Incentive Program,” without interruption for 5 years.

WHEREAS, Anthropogenic climate change is a global emergency and the gold standard science from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) stated in a Special Report of October 2018 that to avoid global temperature increase above 1.5° C and climate catastrophe, the world must attain net- zero carbon emissions by 2050; and

WHEREAS, Decreasing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions is the primary method of mitigating climate change, and in the United States the transportation sector produces more GHGs than any other sector at 28.7% of emissions in 2017 (EPA data); and

WHEREAS, The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) administers a variable rebate program for light-duty motor vehicles which began in September 2019 with a maximum of \$2500 per vehicle. The program provides 1000 rebates for natural gas and liquified petroleum gas vehicles and 2000 rebates for plug-in electrics, plug-in hybrids, or hydrogen fuel cell vehicles. The current program could be improved by adding Tesla to the TCEQ list of applicable vehicles, to include rebates distributed as \$500 for the natural gas group and \$2500 for the electric and hydrogen fuel cell group; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature encourages and strongly recommends that the 87th Texas Legislature provides a funding stream to continually fund the “Light-Duty Motor Vehicle Purchase or Lease Incentive Program” without interruption for 5 years, as a means to encourage the purchase of vehicles that will help mitigate climate change and support cleaner air. Older Texans on fixed incomes may especially benefit from a rebate on the purchase of a clean fuel vehicle.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 28, 2020, by the Utilities and Natural Resources Committee.



Wayne Merrill, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker



ATTEST: Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

Committee: Utilities & Natural Resources

Create Rebate Program for Residential Photovoltaic Solar Systems

A RESOLUTION TO: Urge the State of Texas to create a rebate program, with qualifying photovoltaic systems, for homes owned by older adults.

WHEREAS, Anthropogenic climate change is a global emergency; and to avoid global temperature increase above 1.5° C and climate catastrophe, the world must attain net-zero carbon emissions by 2050; and

WHEREAS, In the United States, the power generation sector is the second-largest source of greenhouse gases (GHGs), producing 27.5% of emissions in 2017 (EPA data). Cutting these emissions from energy production is a robust way to combat climate change. In clean power, the State of Texas is fourth in installed solar energy capacity in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, To assist older Texans to install rooftop solar systems, a federal tax credit of 26% is available in 2020. However, there is no state-level rebate. A state rebate would help older homeowners afford installation of solar panels. In addition, solar panels cool the roof surfaces beneath them. Finally, rooftop solar systems produce NO GHG emissions and allow older adults to help mitigate the climate crisis and, thus, help alleviate older Texans' concerns about the planet they leave their descendants; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature strongly recommends the 87th Texas Legislature establishes a state rebate program for qualifying residential photovoltaic solar systems for older adult homeowners.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 28, 2020, by the Utilities and Natural Resources Committee.



Wayne Merrill, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 29, 2020, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

ATTEST: 

Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

NOTES



The Austin Police Department Motorcycle Unit escorts the delegates of The Texas-Silver-Haired Legislature from the Wyndham Garden Hotel And Woodward Conference Center to the State Capitol, July 15, 2019

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.

NOTES



The 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature

CONSENT RESOLUTION

Appreciation for the 87th 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 87th Texas Legislature continues 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 wishes to thank each member of the House Administration Committee for all the help they provided the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature in arranging for the use of committee rooms and the House Lounge for the TSHL Orientation Session in July 2019, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That all members of the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature wish to express our deepest appreciation and gratitude to the 87th Texas Legislature for its continue 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 July 27, 2020, by the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

Rhonda Rogers

Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

Sherry Hubbard

Sherry Hubbard, Speaker Pro Tem

Barbara Aydlott

Barbara Aydlott, Deputy Speaker Pro Tem

ATTEST:

Bobette Doerrie

Bobette Doerrie, Secretary



The 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature

CONSENT RESOLUTION

Appreciation to Texas Legislative Committee on Aging

WHEREAS, The 81st 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 health care, 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 12th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature with strong support of 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 Dennis Bonnen; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature expresses its appreciation for the continued leadership and vision of the Texas Legislature, the Governors, and the members of the select Committee on Aging: Rep Toni Rose, Chair; Senator Donna Campbell; Representative Ben Leman; Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr.; Betty Lee Streckfuss, R.N; and Ben Dickerson, Ph.D.

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 27, 2020, by the 18th 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 18th 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 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature requests that the 87th 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 July 27, 2020, by the 18th 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 18th 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 28 regions of Texas benefits the Senior population of Texas; and

WHEREAS, The T4A and Texas Silver-Haired Legislature pre-orientation training conferences conducted in various parts of Texas provided invaluable training opportunities and a resource book of materials for the newly elected and re-elected members of the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 18th 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, T4A Resource Workbooks, 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 69th Texas Legislature.

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 27, 2020, by the 18th 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 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature

CONSENT RESOLUTION

Appreciation to Texas Health and Human Services

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

WHEREAS, HHS 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 HHS enables greater advocacy by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature and raises the respect and esteem with which the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature is viewed by other State Agencies; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature expresses gratitude and appreciation for the guidance and confidence shown by HHS in its support of the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature in our efforts to carry on the responsible mission of advocacy for older Texans.

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 27, 2020, by the 18th 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 18th 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 18th 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 July 27, 2020, by the 18th 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 18th 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 18th 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 July 27, 2020, by the 18th 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 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature

CONSENT RESOLUTION

Tribute to the Austin Police Department's Motorcycle Unit

WHEREAS, The members of the Austin Police Department's Motorcycle Unit provide an escort service in a fashion reserved for royalty and presidents; and

WHEREAS, Members of the Motorcycle Unit were competent, professional, and courteous in the conduct of this service; and

WHEREAS, On Monday, July 15, 2019, the entire delegation of the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature was escorted from the Wyndham Garden Hotel to the Capitol promptly and safely; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature honors all those brave members of the Motorcycle Unit Division of the Austin Police Department for their outstanding service.

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 27, 2020, by the 18th 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 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature

CONSENT RESOLUTION

Appreciation for the Wyndham Garden Hotel and Woodward Conference Center Staffs

WHEREAS, The Texas Silver-Haired Legislature meets in Austin, Texas, for our regular sessions and the Wyndham Garden Hotel and Woodward Conference Center has been the headquarters for the delegation for many years; and

WHEREAS, The General Manager, Catering Manager, and Conference Services Manager go above and beyond to make the delegation feel welcome, to serve us while we are there, and to provide quality lodging, meals, and conference services at a reasonable rate; and

WHEREAS, The Engineering Services, Security, Front Desk, Housekeeping, and Restaurant staff members regularly check on our members, and particularly those with disabilities, to assure our safety and health; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That all members of the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature wish to express our deepest appreciation and gratitude to the staff at the Wyndham Garden Hotel and Woodward Conference Center for the outstanding service and invaluable role they play in the success of our TSHL Executive Committee Meetings and General Sessions.

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 27, 2020, by the 18th 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 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature

CONSENT RESOLUTION

Tribute to the 17th TSHL Officers

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

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

WHEREAS, The leaders elected for the 17th TSHL were

SPEAKER	Walter Graham
SPEAKER PRO TEM	Mona Bailey
DEPUTY SPEAKER PRO TEM	Joe Henderson
SECRETARY	Pat J. Porter
COMPTROLLER	Rhonda Rogers

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That all members of the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature hereby pay tribute to the officers of the 17th 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 July 27, 2020, by the 18th 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 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature

CONSENT RESOLUTION

Organization of 18th 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 concerning matters of consequence to the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature; and

WHEREAS, Bylaws and appropriate policies and procedures have been approved and promulgated by the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature that define and fix the limit of the authority and responsibilities of the Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, The 18th 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 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature is composed of representatives as shown on Attachment 1 to this Consent Resolution.

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 27, 2020, by the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

Rhonda Rogers

Rhonda Rogers, Speaker

Sherry Hubbard

Sherry Hubbard, Speaker Pro Tem

Barbara Aydlott

Barbara Aydlott, Deputy Speaker Pro Tem

ATTEST:

Bobette Doerrie

Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

The 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature - 2019-2021**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**OFFICERS

Speaker
 Speaker Pro Tem
 Deputy Speaker Pro Tem
 Secretary
 Comptroller

Rhonda Rogers
 Sherry Hubbard
 Barbara Aydtlett
 Bobette Doerrie
 Wayne Merrill

Ark-Tex
 Concho Valley
 Heart of Texas
 Panhandle
 Concho Valley

AREA REPRESENTATIVES

Allen Wiatrek - Alamo
 Jerry Tyson - Bexar County
 Carolyn Dorsey - Coastal Bend
 John (Dick) Coupe - Dallas
 Elgin Davis - Deep East Texas
 VaLita Waits - East Texas
 Betty Jo Brown - Harris County
 Jean Williams - Houston-Galveston
 Hugo Munoz - Lower Rio Grande
 Jerome Doerrie - Panhandle
 Mary Nixon - South East Texas
 Charles Scoma - Tarrant
 Joe Dale - Texoma

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Criminal Justice
 Education
 Health & Human Resources
 Human Services
 Retirement & Aging
 Rural – Urban
 State Affairs
 Utilities & Natural Resources

Johnny Waldrip
 Nancy Byler
 Sue S. Wilson
 Lynda Mitchell
 Irene Andrews
 Sharon Brazeal
 Mike Sandoval
 Wayne Merrill

North Central Texas
 West Central Texas
 Capital Area
 Heart of Texas
 Central Texas
 Texoma
 Capital Area
 Concho Valley

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Communications
 Elections & Credentials
 Finance
 Operations
 Legislative Action

Linda Timmerman
 Pat Gleason-Wynn
 Pat J. Porter
 Joann Blackmon
 Paul Stempko

Heart of Texas
 Tarrant County
 Permian Basin
 South Plains
 Capital Area

EMERITUS MEMBERS

Immediate Past Speaker

Walter Graham
 Al Campbell
 Jetta Roberts
 Betty Lee Streckfuss

West Central Texas
 Brazos Valley
 Rio Grande
 Harris County



The 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature

CONSENT RESOLUTION

Organization of 18th TSHL Standing Committees

WHEREAS, The 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature constituted certain standing committees for the purpose of researching areas of concern and for receiving public testimony in regard to the issues affecting elderly citizens of Texas which should be addressed by the Legislature of the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, The 18th 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 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature that define and fix the limit of the authority and responsibilities of the standing committees; and

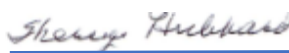
WHEREAS, In accordance with the bylaws, and policies and procedures, the governing body met during the TSHL Orientation Session, July 15-18, 2019, and elected or appointed members to serve on said committees; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That said 18th 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 July 27, 2020, by the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Rhonda Rogers, Speaker



Sherry Hubbard, Speaker Pro Tem



Barbara Aydlett, Deputy Speaker Pro Tem

ATTEST:



Bobette Doerrie, Secretary

THE 18th TSHL ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

COMMUNICATIONS	ELECTIONS & CREDENTIALS	FINANCE
<i>Linda Timmerman - Chair</i> <i>VaLita Waits - Vice Chair</i> <i>- Secretary</i> Scott Christensen Marlene Cohen Stephen A. Coycault Joe Dale Elgin Davis Paul Furukawa Trini Garza Doris Griffin Jerry Johnson Barbara King Judy LeUnes Charlotte Parks Carol Peters Cathy Pope Pal Stempko Allen Wiatrek Sue Wilson	<i>Pat Gleason-Wynn - Chair</i> <i>Irma Cauley - Vice Chair</i> <i>Dolores Garcia - Secretary</i> Frank Archuleta Nancy Byler Tito Camacho Al Campbell Presley Donaldson Nancy O. Hardin Patricia Harkins Viola Hebert Joe Henderson Linda Hesse Martha Jackson Chris Johnson Mary Nixon Brigitte Rogers Mike Sandoval Mary Pat Smith Jean Williams Ira Wilsker	<i>Pat J. Porter - Chair</i> <i>John (Dick) Coupe - Vice Chair</i> <i>Barbara Williams - Secretary</i> Mary Jo Collins Alicia deJong-Davis Walter Graham Gloria Henderson John L. Johnson Jene Liaci Wayne Merrill Mari Okabayashi Willie Parker Linda Parrish Jetta Roberts Ross Rolirad Charles Scoma Perry Slagle Danny Volcik Earl Wall
OPERATIONS <i>Joann Blackmon - Chair</i> <i>Jim Hitt - Vice Chair</i> <i>Rose Timmer - Secretary</i> Leo Alarcon Irene Andrews Maryann Barthelemy Sharon Brazeal Lynn Britton, Jr. Betty Jo Brown Jerome Doerrrie Carolyn Dorsey Garrett Dorsey Tom Hesse Betty Hooey Ted Hubert, Jr. Ronnie Janecka Barbara Lampert Anne Mazone	OPERATIONS, CONTINUED Debbie Milner Lynda Mitchell Hugo Munoz James Rivers Chris Shoop Betty Lee Streckfuss Jerry Tyson Johnny Waldrip Elsie Whiteside	LEGISLATIVE ACTION <i>Paul Stempko - Chair</i> <i>Scott Christensen – Vice Chair</i> <i>Sue Wilson - Secretary</i> Irene Andrews Sharon Brazeal Nancy Byler Wayne Merrill Lynda Mitchell Mike Sandoval Johnny Waldrip Sue Wilson

18th TSHL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES COMMITTEES**CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

Johnny Waldrip - Chair
Joe Henderson - Vice Chair
-Secretary

Frank Archuleta
 Joe Dale
 James (Jim) Hitt
 Ronnie Janecka
 Chris Johnson
 Johnny Johnson
 Danny Volcik
 Ira Wilsker

EDUCATION

Nancy Byler- Chair
Earl Wall - Vice Chair
Dolores Garcia - Secretary

Lynn Britton, Jr.
 Betty Jo Brown
 Trini Garza
 Tom Hesse
 Ted Hubert, Jr.
 Judy LeUnes
 Hugo Munoz
 Charles Scoma
 Linda Timmerman
 Jerry Tyson
 Earl Wall
 Jean Williams
 Barbara Williams

HEALTH & HUMAN RESOURCES

Sue Wilson - Chair
Viola Hebert - Vice Chair
Irma Cauley - Secretary

Marlene Cohen
 John (Dick) Coupe
 Doris Griffin
 Nancy O. Hardin
 Mary Nixon
 Jetta Roberts
 Chris Shoop
 Paul Stempko
 Betty Lee Streckfuss
 Rose Timmer
 Valita Waits

HUMAN SERVICES

Lynda Mitchell - Chair
- Vice Chair
Linda Hesse - Secretary

Alicia deJong-Davis
 Pat Gleason-Wynn
 Patricia Harkins
 Barbara King
 Cathy Pope
 Mary Pat Smith

RETIREMENT & AGING

Irene Andrews - Chair
Paul Furukawa - Vice Chair
Maryann Barthelemy - Secretary

Leo Alarcon
 Joann Blackmon
 Tito Camacho
 Al Campbell
 Steve Coycault
 Gloria Henderson
 Martha Jackson
 Barbara Lampert
 Elsie Whiteside

RURAL - URBAN

Sharon Brazeal - Chair
-Vice Chair
Perry Slagle - Secretary

Scott Christensen
 Betty Hooey
 Jerry Johnson
 Anne Mazone
 Willie Parker
 Brigitte Rogers

STATE AFFAIRS

Mike Sandoval – Chair
Pat J. Porter – Vice Chair
Mari Okabayashi - Secretary

Elgin Davis
 Presley Donaldson
 Carolyn Dorsey
 Jene Liaci
 Debbie Milner
 Linda Parrish
 James Rivers
 Allen Wiatrek

UTILITIES & NATURAL RESOURCES

Wayne Merrill – Chair
Jerome Doerrie – Vice Chair
Mary Jo Collins - Secretary

Garrett Dorsey
 Walter Graham
 Charlotte Parks
 Carol Peters
 Ross Rolirad



The 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature

CONSENT RESOLUTION

Organization of 18th TSHL Special Committees

WHEREAS, The 18th TSHL Executive Committee constituted certain special committees for the purpose of researching areas of concern and establishing programs and services for members; and

WHEREAS, Bylaws and appropriate policies and procedures have been approved and promulgated by the 18th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature that define and fix the limit of the authority and responsibilities of the special committees; and

WHEREAS, In accordance with the bylaws and policies and procedures, the Executive Committee met during the TSHL Orientation Session, July 18, 2019, and approved the special committees and members as appointed by the TSHL Speaker, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 18th Silver-Haired Legislature acknowledges with gratitude these special committees and the leadership and vision of their members in carrying out the duties of their respective studies and programs as shown on Attachment 1.

PASSED AND APPROVED on July 27, 2020, by the 18th 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

18th TSHL SPECIAL COMMITTEES

ARCHIVES

Barbara Lampert, Coordinator

AWARDS

Mary Nixon, Chair
Mari Okabayashi

DIRECTORY

Pat J. Porter, Editor
Mary Jo Collins, Ad Sales
Director

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Leo Alarcon
Sherry Hubbard
Jerry Tyson

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Nancy O. Hardin, Chair
Joe Dale
Walter Graham
Carol Peters

MEMORIAL

Dolores Garcia, Chair
Betty Jo Brown
James (Ted) Hubert

Parliamentarian

Pat J. Porter

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION
REVIEW**

Linda Parrish, Chair
Irene Andrews
Pat Gleason-Wynn
Paul Stempko

SILVER BULLETIN

Linda Timmerman, Editor

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Paul Furukawa, Chair
Frank Archuleta
Alicia deJong-Davis
Charles Scoma
Paul Stempko

TECHNOLOGY

Marlene Cohen, Chair
Pat J. Porter
Ira Wilsker

TRAINING

Joe Henderson, Chair
Scott Christensen
Bobette Doerrie
Barbara Williams

18th 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:

Dr. Sherry Hubbard, Marlene Cohen, Carol Peters, VaLita Waits, Esq., 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 80th Legislature with the addition of “one state under God.”

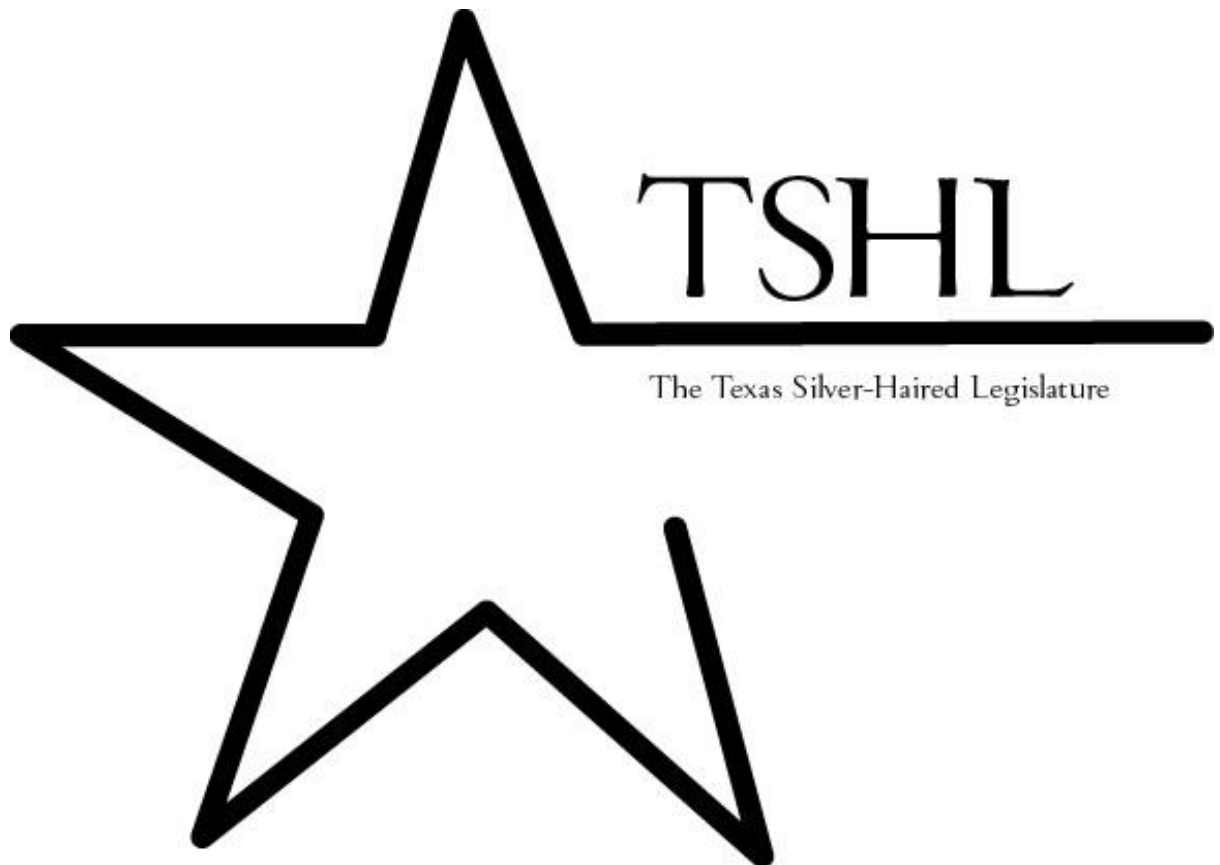
The revised wording became effective on June 15, 2007.



The flag was adopted as the state flag when Texas became the 28th 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.

Better Texas Through the Ages



www.txshl.org