



# Legislative Session: May 1-5 Highlights!

## SILVER BULLETIN 19<sup>TH</sup> TSHL 3Q2022

### FROM THE TSHL SPEAKER:

Welcome to Summer!

This issue of the *Silver Bulletin* highlights the activities and work we accomplished in May during the Legislative Session in Austin.

So many worked diligently to make the session a success, but I want to extend a special “thank you” to Mike Black, Kara Coffee, and the entire staff of the Texas House Sergeant-at-Arms office for the support they provided our members. Additionally, Robert Davis and Stacey Nicchio of the Capitol Events and Exhibits Office provided excellent service. And we also extend appreciation to the Capitol Security staff who were so welcoming and helpful.

We had a productive session, and we thank all who made it possible.

-- Rhonda Rogers, TSHL Speaker

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



It was good to be back on the House Floor for the 19<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session of the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature. TSHL started the session with seventy-one resolutions submitted by our members. These resolutions were considered by the Proposed Resolution Review Panel (PRRP) and assigned to one of our eight Legislative Issues Committees (LIC) for review and debate. At that point, some resolutions were rejected, some were withdrawn by the author(s), and some were “bundled” with comparable resolutions. The remaining resolutions were submitted for presentation and debate on the House Floor during the two and a half-day allotted for this task. Ultimately, fifty-four resolutions were passed by the full body.

Following floor debate, TSHL members selected Ten “Priority Resolutions.” “While all fifty-four resolutions presented are important recommendations impacting older Texans, the TSHL strives to let the Texas Legislators know which of our resolutions deserve key attention,” said Speaker Rhonda Rogers.

The next step in the process is to print the *Legislative Report* (LR) which contains the text of all adopted resolutions. The LR will be distributed electronically to the Governor, Lt. Governor, all current Texas Legislators, AAA Directors, and members of TSHL. On September 8, 2022, TSHL members will visit the Capitol to personally distribute printed copies of the *Report* to all legislative offices.

TSHL members have already started working with specific Legislators to advocate for resolutions and to assist with testimony, as requested, in the effort to turn these resolutions into bills during the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislative Session.

**RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY TSHL MAY 2022**  
**Top 10 Resolutions Bolded**

RES#	TITLE	AUTHOR(S)
	<b>CRIMINAL JUSTICE</b>	
<b>#5 R001</b>	<b>Require a Criminal Background Check for CNAs and LVNs in Nursing Homes and Home Health Companies</b>	Porter, et al
R002	Provide Support for Public Volunteer Programs that Engage Older Adults in Incarceration Facilities	Peters, et al
	<b>HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES</b>	
<b>#1 R003</b>	<b>Increase the Personal Needs Allowance for Medicaid Residents in Nursing Homes</b>	J. Roberts, et al
R004	Increase Medicaid Reimbursement to Improve the Quality and Financial Stability of Texas Nursing Home Care	Wilson, et al
R005	Clarify Rights to Visit Older Texans in Institutions	Scoma
R006	Require Nursing Facilities to Have Alzheimer's Certification if Using Locked Doors	Scoma
R007	Establish a Taskforce to Provide Enhanced Oversight to All Home Healthcare Agencies	Hebert
<b>#9 R008</b>	<b>Establish Full Practice Authority (FPA) for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs)</b>	Hebert, et al
<b>#10 R009</b>	<b>Increase the Maximum Rate of Home-Delivered Meals for Older Texans to \$10.00 with an Annual Cost-of-Living Adjustment</b>	Simon, et al
R010	Integration of Geriatric Education in Texas into All Medical Areas of Study	Porter, et al
	<b>HUMAN SERVICES</b>	
R011	Provide 24/7 Free Automated English/Spanish Daily Senior Check-In Call Service Program	Blackmon, et all
R012	Ensure Full Participation in Use of the STEAR Program for Emergency Management Statewide	Jones, et al
R013	Encourage HHS to Develop Family Caregiver Training to Prevent Out-of-Home Placements	Porter, et al
R014	Provide Information on Free or Low-Cost Phones for Long-Term Care Nursing Facility (LTCNF) Residents	B. Doerrie, et al
R015	Increase Funding of the Texas Lifespan Respite Care Program (TLRCP)	Wilson, et al
R016	Permit Qualified Spouses and Legally Responsible Relatives to Serve as Paid Caregivers and Increase the Base Wage of All Paid Caregivers to \$15.00 per hour with an Annual Cost-of-Living Adjustment	Simon
R017	Fund Additional Positions within the Texas Workforce Commission's Older Blind Independent Living Program	Hubbard, et al
R018	Partner with Business and Educational Entities to Strengthen Existing Learning and Support New Innovative Training for Older Texans	Hebert
	<b>PENSIONS, INVESTMENTS, INSURANCE, &amp; FINANCIAL SERVICES</b>	
R019	Increase Reimbursement of Insurance for Rural Volunteer Firefighters by Reinstating Fireworks Tax	Scoma
R020	Amend House Bill 1129 on Deceptive Advertising Practices When Obtaining Reverse Mortgages	Scoma
R021	Texas Insurance Commission to Develop a Comprehensive Homeowners Insurance Program Which Includes Supplemental Flood Coverage	Scoma
<b>#6 R022</b>	<b>Authorize a 13<sup>th</sup> Month Annuity Payment to Employees Retirement System (ERS) Retirees</b>	Christensen, et al
R023	Establish a Legacy Funding Plan for the State Law Enforcement and Custodial Officer Supplemental Retirement Fund (LECOSRF) Administered by ERS	Christensen, et al
<b>#4 R024</b>	<b>Authorize TRS to Provide a Cost-of-Living Adjustment to Teacher Retirement System Retirees</b>	Christensen, et al
	<b>RETIREMENT &amp; AGING</b>	
R025	Require Backup Emergency Generator Power Source in Assisted Living Facilities	Timmerman
R026	State to Require Hospital, Clinic, and Doctor Pricing Transparency	Slagle
R027	Extension of Senior Homestead Property Tax Exemptions	Scoma
R028	Require Relocation Funds to be used for Recruiting and Training/Retraining Individuals 60 or Older for Returning to the Workforce	Coupe, Kulig
R029	Designate a Portion of the Older Americans' Act Funding and State Matching Funds for Healthy Aging Programs	D. Roberts
R030	Provide a Discount on Texas' Tolling Entities for Texans 65 and Older	Simon
R031	Amend the Texas Transportation Code to Simplify the Process for Older Texans to Convert their Texas Driver License to a Texas ID When They Choose to Stop Driving	Taylor
	<b>RURAL - URBAN</b>	
R032	Coordinate Funding for a Seamless and Integrated Transportation System	Porter
R033	Support a Meaningful Increase in Funding for Rural Transit Districts	Scoma
R034	Enact Permanent Daylight Savings Time	Henderson
R035	Seek a Waiver to Allow Food Stamps to be Used for Pet Food under SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)	Scoma
R036	Increase the Maximum Property Tax Rate Allowable for Rural ESDs	Christensen, et al
<b>#8 R037</b>	<b>Improve Access to Healthcare in Rural Texas for Older Texans</b>	Porter
	<b>STATE AFFAIRS</b>	
R038	Establish a Texas State Veterans Home in Brazos County	Slagle, et al
R039	Restoration of Gaming Activities on Texas Native American Reservations	Campbell
R040	Voter Election to Authorize Local Option Elections to Allow Casinos	Campbell
<b>#2 R041</b>	<b>Child-Related Income Follows the Child</b>	Bristol, Hubbard, Christensen
<b>#7 R042</b>	<b>Amend Family Code to Provide for a Grandparent Conservatorship and Support Bill</b>	Scoma
R043	Make Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Benefits Accessible to all Kinship Placements	Bristol, et al
R044	Rebuild the Texas Department on Aging as the State Unit on Aging	Porter
R045	Lower the Cost of Fishing Licenses for Texans 65 and Older	Hubbard, et al
<b>#3 R046</b>	<b>Increase for Readability of the Application and Vote-by-Mail Documentation to Reduce the Rejection Rate</b>	Fisher
R047	Enact Legislation to Review Senate Bill 1 (SB1) Voting Procedures	Henderson, et al
R048	Amend Texas Administrative Code, Title 26, Chapter 554, to Require Quarterly Inspection of Cash Flow Statements	Mitchell
R049	Continue Funding Darrell K Royal Texas Alzheimer's Initiative Supporting Texas Alzheimer's Research and Care Consortium (TARCC)	Wilson, et al
R050	Allow Texas Citizens to Vote on Expansion of Medicaid	Stempko, et al
R051	Enact a Carefully Crafted, Well-Regulated Medical Cannabis Law to Allow Licensed Medical Professionals to Legally Prescribe Medical Cannabis	Stempko, et al
	<b>UTILITIES &amp; NATURAL RESOURCES</b>	
R052	Provide Full Funding to the Emergency 9-1-1 Service Program for Maintenance and Improvement	Scoma
R053	Increase Funding for the Examination, Exploration, and Support for Texas Desalination	Porter
R054	Require Regional Councils of Government to Work Together to Become Designated as International Dark Sky Sites	Doerrie, et al

# 19<sup>th</sup> LEGISLATIVE SESSION IN PICTURES!

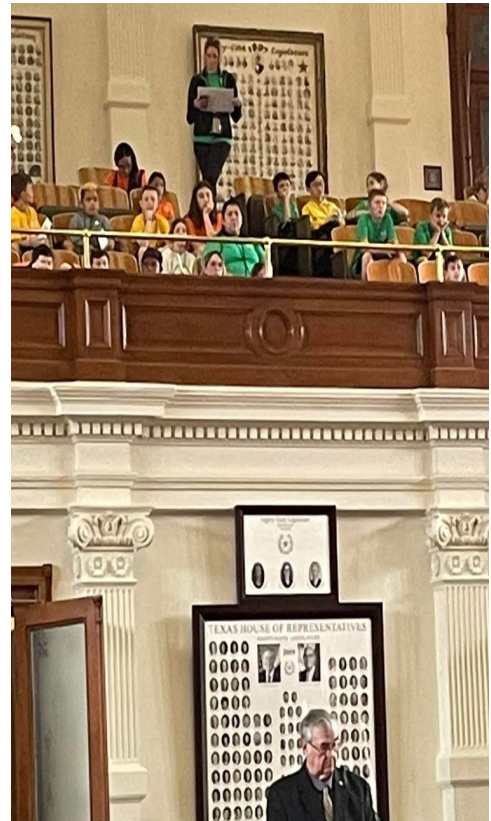


Above: Stephen P. Munisteri, Senior Advisor to Governor Abbott, welcomes TSHL to the Capitol

Right top: The Honorable John Bucy (Dist. 136) swears in new TSHL member David Kunselman

Right bottom: Great to see future leaders of Texas and their teachers in the gallery while TSHL member Joe Henderson debates a resolution

Below: Rural-Urban Committee takes a break from resolution debate to pose for a picture



Pictured above: Back Row – Dick Coupe, Alan Mathis, Sharon Kulig. Front Row: Bert Simon, Kay Sanders, Peggy Dimmick, Sharon Brazeal

## THANKS AND KUDOS!

- ✚ **Joann Blackmon** and the Operations Committee for logistics and planning for the Legislative Session
- ✚ **Doris Griffin** and **Barbara Aydlett** for securing funding from WellMed for our lunches at the Capitol
- ✚ **Sue Wilson**, Legislative Action Committee Chair, and **Mike Taylor**, Technology Chair, for extensive pre-work to prepare TSHL for a “paperless” prioritization of Resolutions process
- ✚ **Kara Coffee**, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms of the Texas House, for working with Speaker Pro Tem, **Sherry Hubbard**, and handling the myriad details associated with the TSHL Legislative Session
- ✚ LIC Chairs, **Joe Henderson**, **Paul Stempko**, **Barbara Williams**, **Gary Gerstenhaber**, **Dan Roberts**, **Sharon Brazeal**, **Scott Christensen**, and **Jerome Doerrie** - and special thanks to **Mercedes Bristol**, Vice Chair of State Affairs, for standing in for the Chair during the session.

## IN MEMORIAM:



TSHL expresses sincere sympathy to the family of **Jetta Roberts**. Jetta served fourteen terms and was honored with Emeritus status by TSHL. She represented the El Paso AAA and was instrumental in writing and getting the Texas Patient Bill of Rights legislation passed. During the current session, Jetta was the lead author on the #1 Priority Resolution to increase the personal needs allowance for Medicaid residents in nursing homes. She was also acknowledged as the top ad salesperson for the most recent TSHL Directory, a recognition she received numerous times during her tenure with TSHL.

## UPCOMING DATES/DEADLINES FOR TSHL

- Executive Committee Meeting – July 21, 2022, Corsicana
- Executive Committee Meeting – October 13, 2022, Boerne
- Executive Committee Meeting – February 23, 2023, Austin
- TSHL Foundation Gala & Legislative Dinner – February 23, 2023  
Bullock Museum, Austin, TX (sponsorships available)



The bus ride to and from the Capitol is always a highlight of a TSHL session!

## OFFICERS

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Speaker Pro Tem: **Sherry Hubbard**, Junction  
Deputy Speaker Pro Tem: **Barbara Aydlett**, San Antonio  
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