



# SILVER BULLETIN 19<sup>TH</sup> TSHL 3Q2023

## FROM THE TSHL SPEAKER:

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as Speaker of the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature for the past two terms.

As I prepare to turn the gavel over to a new Speaker and set of officers at our Orientation Session mid-July, I am humbled by the encouragement, support, and dedication the TSHL members have shown over the past four years. We survived the 18<sup>th</sup> Term despite the pandemic, and we did our job! We came back for the 19<sup>th</sup> Term, and we are working to build an even stronger foundation of support for older Texans and to engage a broader audience for our advocacy through technology, collaboration, and strategic initiatives.

There are not enough words to express my gratitude. All I can say is “thank you.”

-- Rhonda Rogers, TSHL Speaker

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

## Regular Legislative Session: “Sine Die”



“Sine Die.” Two little Latin words that signify the official end of a legislative session in Texas. For the 88<sup>th</sup> Regular Legislative Session, that date was May 29, 2023. As of the writing of this edition of the *Silver Bulletin*, the Legislature is conducting a special session, with possibly more to follow.

Prior to the regular session, TSHL submitted 54 resolutions (detailed on the next page) that we believed would have the most impact, provide a cost-benefit relationship for Texas, and address some of the basic issues confronting older Texans. Our Legislative Report was hand-delivered and submitted electronically to every member of the Legislature. We sought legislative sponsors to turn our Resolutions into bills, and we provided background and research regarding the need for legislative action. A copy of the Legislative Report is available to all on our website: [TSHL.org](http://TSHL.org).

During the regular session, TSHL members tracked bills that related to issues in our Resolutions, testified before committees as requested, and registered in support of numerous bills. Following the close of the regular session, legislators had passed and funded at least 16 measures supported by TSHL, including our #1 Priority Legislation – to increase the personal needs allowance for Medicaid nursing home residents. Our Legislative Action Committee Chair and Chairs/members of each of our Legislative Issues Committees continue to track legislation passed/or that will pass in special session and that could ultimately be signed by Governor Abbott.

TSHL is grateful to the Legislators, staff members, agency partners, and organizations that collaborated with us in our advocacy efforts.

**RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY TSHL MAY 2022**

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

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 al
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

# TSHL CELEBRATES NATIONAL OLDER AMERICANS MONTH: MAY 2023

Right: Tarrant County was one of several municipal organizations that issued a Proclamation during the Month of May to recognize the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature (TSHL) and the local Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) for their advocacy for older Texans.



Above: Tarrant County TSHL representatives, Mike Taylor and Charles Scoma, flank former Texas Speaker of the House Gib Lewis. Lewis graciously participated in an interview conducted by Taylor and Scoma and discussed the “beginnings” of TSHL in 1985. When asked why the Texas Legislature decided to create a Silver-Haired Legislature, Lewis immediately replied, “Because older Texans didn’t have a voice and they needed one in the Texas Legislature!” The interview aired at the TSHL Executive Committee Meeting in Tarrant County on April 28, 2023. Thanks to the Tarrant County AAA for hosting the event and providing a wealth of information!

# THANKS AND APPRECIATION

As of this writing, 27 former members of TSHL, collectively representing 93 terms and 182 years' experience, have indicated they will not be able to return for the 20<sup>th</sup> Session. We express our thanks and deep appreciation for the tireless work these members have accomplished for the organization and, more importantly, for older Texans.

Sharon Brazeal, Texoma – 3 terms  
Mercedes Bristol, Bexar County – 1 term  
Linda Cahill, Concho Valley – 1 term  
Joe Dale, Texoma – 3 terms  
Doris Griffin, Bexar County – 10 terms  
Nancy O. Hardin, Bexar County – 6 terms  
Patty Harkins, Harris County – 2 terms  
Joe Henderson, Texoma – 5 terms  
Betty Hooey, Dallas County – 4 terms  
Ronnie Janecka, Harris County – 2 terms  
Jerry Johnson, Rio Grande – 6 terms  
David Kunselman, South Plains\*  
Debbie Milner, Capital Area – 2 terms  
Hugo Munoz, Lower Rio Grande – 5 terms  
Charles Pankey, Dallas County – 1 term  
Cathy Pope, South Plains, 2 terms  
Pat J. Porter, Permian Basin – 11 terms – Emeritus  
Patricia Quattromani, South Plains\*  
Brigitte Rogers, Concho Valley, 10 terms  
Mike Sandoval, Capital Area – 3 terms  
Perry Slagle, Brazos Valley – 2 terms  
Claire Tague, Capital Area – 1 term  
Rose Timmer, Lower Rio Grande – 3 terms  
Jerry Tyson, Bexar County – 3 terms  
Jack White, Lower Rio Grande – 1 term  
Allen Wiatrek, Alamo – 3 terms  
Barbara Williams, Ark-Tex – 3 terms

\*unable to complete a full term

## TSHL OFFICERS

Speaker:

Rhonda Rogers, Paris

Speaker Pro Tem:

Sherry Hubbard, Junction

Deputy Speaker Pro Tem:

Barbara Aydlett, San Antonio

Secretary:

Bobbette Doerrie, Booker

Comptroller:

Wayne Merrill, San Angelo

## UPCOMING DATES/DEADLINES

**20<sup>th</sup> TSHL Orientation Session and Swearing-In – Austin**

**July 16 – New Member Orientation**

**July 17 – Executive Committee & Swearing-In**

**July 18-20 – General Orientation**

**20<sup>th</sup> TSHL Training Session – November 12-15 - San Marcos**

PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

[WWW.TSHL.ORG](http://WWW.TSHL.ORG)

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