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Missouri Silver Haired Legislature (SHL) History/Facts:

Created in 1973, Missouri's SHL has the distinction of being the first such organization in the United States.

- The SHL is composed of citizens, age 60 or older, who volunteer their time to advocate on behalf of Missouri's older adults.
- The delegates are elected from each of Missouri's 10 Area Agencies on Aging. Each delegation consists of 12 representatives and three senators for a total of 150 legislators.
- All legislators meet annually for a model legislative session at the State Capitol. They debate and vote on their top five priority proposals.
- Once the five priorities are chosen, the legislators return to their districts to encourage support of those issues. They testify before the Missouri Senate and House and speak with senior groups regarding those issues.

SHL Top Five Priorities for 2025

- Improve the Missouri Property Tax Credit a.k.a. Circuit Breaker and add annual indexing.
- Increase the Personal Needs Allowance and add annual indexing.
- Increase Excise Tax on tobacco products to benefit AAA transportation fund.
- Increase Medicaid income eligibility limits for the Aged and Disabled category from 85% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to 133% of FPL, in line with non-disabled adults accessing the Medicaid expansion category, a difference of around \$600 a month in allowable income.
- Increase Medicaid Asset Level.

Proposals Passed into Law

Over the years, SHL has grown in visibility and esteem. It has advocated for many proposals that are now state law, such as:

- Senior Services Growth and Development Program.
- Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program.
- Elimination of the state tax on Social Security benefits.
- Senior real estate tax freeze.
- Exploitation of older adults and elder abuse laws.



SHL Will Also Support Legislative Action for the Following Issues:

- Increased accessibility to public buildings for individuals with disabilities.
- Rate increase on Medicaid Home-Delivered Meals.
- Increased oversight and accountability for nursing home inspections.
- 24/7 staffing of the DHSS Adult Abuse and Neglect Hotline.
- Increased funding for the MO Rx program to include all eligible Medicare beneficiaries.
- Foot care funding.
- Increased funding of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.
- Hearing aid and cochlear implants for eligible MO HealthNet individuals.
- Real property tax exemption for 100% disabled veterans.
- Tax incentive for volunteer drivers for qualified organizations.

Health.Mo.Gov/silverhaired

The SHL works in coordination with the Area Agencies on Aging and the DHSS Division of Senior and Disability Services.

If you are interested in issues impacting older Missourians, subscribe to the SHL newsletter agingahead.org/missouri-shl.