MO Silver Haired Legislative Board

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Priorities, Issues and Officers

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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 Silver Haired Legislature 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 3 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.

2020 Missouri Silver Haired Legislature Priorities:

- Increase Funding for Home-Delivered Meals and Congregate Meals
- Reinstatement of Funding to MoRx Program
- Prescription Drug Monitoring Program
- Streamline Tax Collection Procedure with a Portion Designated to Senior Protection Fund
- Expand MO HealthNet (Medicaid)

Resolutions Passed:

- No More Homeless Veterans
- Retain Property Tax Credit (Circuit Breaker)

SHL Will Also Support Legislative Action for the Following Issues:

- Silver Alert to be Combined with Amber Alert
- Increase Funding to Assist Homeless Senior Veterans
- Improve Funding for Senior Transportation
- Hearing Aid Voucher Program
- Financial Assistance to Seniors for Medically Necessary Denture Services
- Electronic Monitoring in Long-Term Care Facilities
- End-of-Life Care Non-Profit Center Licensing
- Update Missouri Personal Income Tax Brackets
- Discontinuation of the Timely Filing Tax Discount
- Increase Medicaid Meal Rate
- Money Recouped by MO HealthNet to be Earmarked for MO HealthNet
- Ban Talking/Texting on Handheld Devices for all Drivers

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 & Development Program
- Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program
- Asset limit increase for MO HealthNet Eligibility
- Exploitation of the Elderly/Elder Abuse Laws
- Permanent Funding for CLAIM
- Creation of the Missouri Senior Rx Program
- Seniors Savings Protection Act

The Silver Haired Legislature works in coordination with the Area Agencies on Aging and the Department of Health and Senior Services, Division of Senior and Disability Services.