



Silver Haired Legislature Bulletin

January, 2023

*A Newsletter for Advocates for
Missouri Seniors*

Urgent Call to Release Funds For Senior Services

by Barb Mercadante, Aging Ahead, and Gayle Johnson, SeniorAge

SHL priority since the law passed in 2019.

The Area Agency on Aging (AAA) senior centers are making an urgent call for funding for the Senior Services Growth and Development Program. Funding for this program has been one of the Silver-Haired Legislature's priorities each year since it was passed into law in 2019.



Read more on call to release funds....



MA4 Video on Legislative Education Series:

The Senior Services

Growth and Development Program

The Missouri Association of Area Agencies (ma4), the statewide association for the ten Missouri Area Agencies on Aging, held its third in a series of legislative education programs on January 10th, 2023, on the Senior Services Growth and Development Program (SSGDP).

Dr. Julie Peetz, the Executive Director for ma4 introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Catherine Edwards, the retired Executive Director of ma4 as the key champion of the SSGDP and instrumental in the creation of the program as a funding mechanism for the senior centers and Area Agencies on Aging throughout the state.

You can watch the video below.

WHY Fund SSGDP?

Our population of aging adults in MO is growing

Number and Share of Missourians Ages 60+

Year	Number of Missourians Ages 60+	Share of Population
2001	892,992	25%
2040	1,090,000	25%

ma4

The video player also displays a thumbnail of a video call with two participants: a woman with blonde hair and glasses, and a man with white hair.

SILVER-HAIRED LEGISLATURE TOP PRIORITIES FOR 2023

by Thomas Eyssell, Aging Ahead

Representatives of the Missouri Silver-Haired Legislature met in Jefferson City in October 2022 to consider proposed initiatives to pursue and advocate for in 2023. Below are the top five vote-getters and the status of proposed legislation. Note that legislation status changes frequently.



Initiative 1: No Income Tax on Social Security Income.

Missouri is one of only twelve states that tax Social Security retirement payments (albeit with income-based exemptions). This proposal would eliminate state

Initiative 4: Increase Medicaid Asset Level.

Medicaid eligibility in Missouri is determined by one's income and assets. These values have not increased in several years, despite substantial increases in the cost of living. This proposal seeks to raise asset limits from their current levels (\$5301.85 for an individual, \$10,603.70 for a couple) to \$10,000 (individual) and \$20,000 (couple).

taxation of all Social Security retirement payments for recipients aged 60 and above.

Initiative 2: Real Estate Tax Relief for Seniors.

Senior citizens who own their own homes are taxed annually on their property based on its assessed valuation and the local tax rate. This proposal freezes the assessed valuation of one's primary residence once the property owner reaches 65 years of age. Under this proposal, real estate tax due would increase only if the local tax rate increases.

Initiative 3: Absentee and Early Voting for Seniors.

Many senior citizens face obstacles to voting due to health,

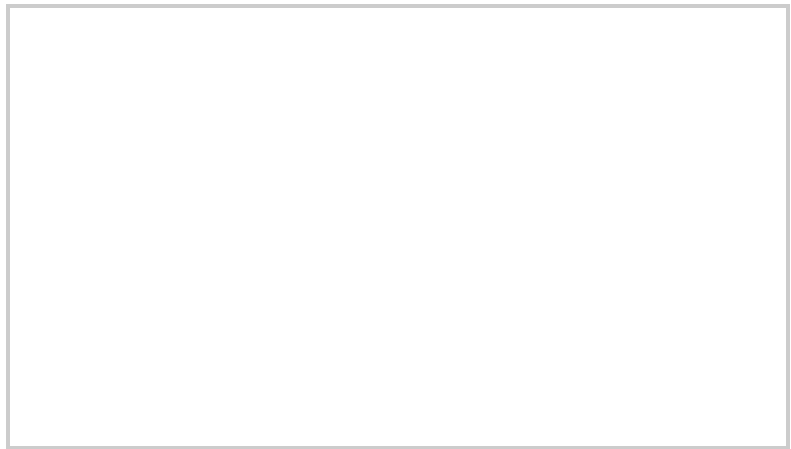
Initiative 5: Implement Dementia Specific Training in Licensed Long-Term Care Facilities.

Given the continuing increase in the number of seniors requiring memory care, this proposal asks that the Department of Health and Senior Services develop enhanced training for those who care for those with dementia or dementia-related conditions.

[Click here to find status of each proposal.](#)



transportation, or mobility issues. This proposal seeks to provide more voting options for seniors by making permanent the voting protocols adopted during the recent pandemic.



Online Tools For Contacting Your Legislators



Here are four online tools to help you stay in touch your state and federal legislators. Explore these websites for all sorts of interesting information!

[Missouri House of Representatives - Home \(mo.gov\)](https://www.mo.gov)

- Interact with your state representative
- Learn about your government
- Track the legislative process
- Watch legislative sessions live as the House deliberates issues important to all Missourians

Missouri Senate - Home <https://senate.mo.gov/>

- Interact with your state senator
- Senate Committee Information
- Legislation before the Senate
- Schedule of Senate Committee hearings
- News, Videos and Audio from Senate Communications
- Select bills by number, sponsor or co-sponsor, keyword, etc., and view various reports

MO.gov

- Official Missouri State website
- Information for businesses, job seekers, veterans, individuals with disabilities, teens, college students, those wanting to move to Missouri, and state employees

GovTrack.us

- Confirm who your elected legislators are at the federal level and their contact information
 - View what bills they've sponsored and how they've voted on recent bills
 - See the progress of bills that you care about
 - Sign up for a free account to get alerts on your reps' activities and updates on bills.
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New SHL Public Advocacy E-Mail List



The New Missouri Silver Haired Legislature Public Advocacy Program has created a public SHL email list so we can stay informed of SHL priority issues and advocate for a better quality of life for seniors. Any Missouri citizen of any age can subscribe to the email program.

*Graphic credit:
Victor DaMommio*





Update from the SHL Advocacy Committee on Email List

by Victor DaMommio

If we help expand the new public email list, it could be a tremendous multiplier of our force as advocates. Assume that on our very best day, 100 SHL delegates could be mobilized to contact legislators

about a specific issue. One day the public email list could mobilize *1,000 persons (or more)* from the list to make such contacts.

The single most important act by a SHL member this session could be encouraging friends and relatives to sign up for the list.

Find a summary of the program and a link on the SHL .gov website: (<https://health.mo.gov/seniors/silverhaired/>) under “Public Advocacy” or go directly to the subscriber website <https://www.agingahead.org/missouri-shl/> to enroll.

For more information, contact Victor DaMommio at vdavis8735@gmail.com or go to the following website:

<https://www.agingahead.org/missouri-shl/>

