

FINAL REPORT 2024



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Introduction

The Twenty-Third Biennial Silver Haired Legislative Session (SHLS) was held on August 14th and 15th at the Arkansas State Capitol. The delegates passed **16 Silver Haired Bills and 2 Silver Haired Resolutions** that addressed many of the critical issues facing today's aging population. Over the years, a number of the Silver Haired Bills and Resolutions have been incorporated into Arkansas statutes. This report explains the process of the SHLS, which takes place over several months. It involves many more participants than the delegates who were seated in the Arkansas State Capitol (Capitol Chamber) on August 15, 2024.

The SHLS is an educational process for individuals, as well as the public. It is a tool that can raise the consciousness of elected officials and the general public regarding the needs of older citizens. This process also offers older people a chance to learn the skills necessary to advocate successfully for legislative changes.

Description

Authorization

The Arkansas Silver Haired Legislative Session was authorized by a concurrent resolution sponsored by Rep. B. G. Hendrix and the late Rep. W. F. "Bill" Foster in the 1977 Arkansas General Assembly. The Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division on Aging- Older American Act Unit, was directed to sponsor the Session in the Chamber of the House of Representatives at the Arkansas State Capitol.

Since the passage of the authorizing resolution, Silver Haired Legislative Sessions have been held in the summer or fall of even numbered years, prior to the convening of the Arkansas General Assembly the following January. The Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division on Aging- Older American Act Unit and the eight Area Agencies on Aging work cooperatively to manage all phases of this statewide project.

Purpose

The Silver Haired Legislative session has a fourfold purpose:

- To have 99 older people participate in a biennial mock legislative session;
- To educate older citizens about the legislative process;
- To teach older citizens how to have an impact on the legislative process; and
- To bring important aging issues to the attention of state legislators and the general public through the development of Silver Haired legislation.

Delegate Selection

The eight Arkansas Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) coordinated the election of one delegate from each county of the State and appointed three delegates-at-large from each region.

The first step of the delegate selection process was to have people who wanted to represent their county, in the SHLS, circulate a petition. In order to be eligible to participate, a person had to be 60 or over and had to secure the signatures of 25 other county residents who were also 60 or over. Candidates returned the completed petitions to their respective Area Agencies on Aging to have their names placed on a ballot.

In counties with more than one candidate, elections were held to determine the SHLS delegates. Voters had to be 60 and over. Voting took place on ballots prepared by the AAAs. Absentee balloting was permitted. The candidate receiving the greatest number of votes became the county delegate. In counties with no candidates, the AAAs asked seniors to volunteer to serve as delegates.

Delegate Training

Delegates and alternates were required to attend a two-day training in order to serve in the 2024 SHLS. The training was designed to prepare the delegates for their duties at the Arkansas State Capitol. They also learned how to draft Silver Haired bills and resolutions, received information about the needs of older citizens, and became more familiar with the legislative process.

Bill Preparation

In each region, the delegates and some of the alternates met to write three legislative proposals, either bills or resolutions, for consideration by all the Silver Haired delegates. Using a simple format, the delegates identified a need or problem for Older Arkansans and a potential legislative remedy. The delegates then drafted legislation which was sent to the Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division on Aging- Older American Act Unit for processing. All Silver Haired bills and resolutions were sent to each of the 99 delegates before the session.

Session Activities

The Twenty-Third Biennial Silver Haired Legislative Session began on August 14th with a Briefing for SHLS Chairs, Co-Chairs, and Volunteers. This was followed by a luncheon at the Wyndham Riverfront Hotel.

Committee Meetings began afterwards which lasted through the afternoon. There were four Committees which included:

- A – Legal/Revenue and Tax;**
- B – Aging Issues;**
- C – Senior Centers; and**
- D – Service Rates/Funding.**

That evening delegates, alternates, spouses, and guests were invited to a reception at the Wyndham Riverfront Hotel in honor of the seniors inducted into the Senior Hall of Fame, sponsored by the Arkansas Association of Area Agencies on Aging and the Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division on Aging-Older American Act Unit.

On the following day, the Session convened with Mr. Jon Eubanks, House Speaker Pro-Tempore presiding. He was assisted by Mr. John Vines, Parliamentarian, House of Representative, and Malisha Straw/Daniel Loyd, Legislative Analyst/ Reading Clerk. During the Session, 16 bills and 2 resolutions were passed.

Acknowledgments

The Arkansas Department of Human Services, Division on Aging- Older American Act Unit- wishes to express sincere appreciation to everyone who assisted in all aspects of the 2024 Silver Haired Legislative Session, especially the following:

Brian Evans
Designate

Matthew Shepherd
Speaker of the House

Jon Eubanks
*House Speaker
Pro-Tempore*

John Vines
*Parliamentarian
House of Representatives*

Robin Voss
Director of Operations House of Representatives

Malisha Straw/ Daniel Loyd
Legislative Analyst/ Reading Clerk

Region I – Northwest

**1510 Rock Springs Rd
PO Box 1795
Harrison AR 72602
870-741-1144**

Benton County
Cynthia Harrison

Marion County
Maddie Kiefer

Newton County
Brenda Smyth

Searcy County
Daryl Treat

Washington County
Wayne Mays

At-Large
Shirley Moon

Region II – White River

**3998 Harrison Street
PO Box 2637
Batesville AR 72503
870-612-3000**

Cleburne County
Steve Choate

Independence County
Connie Lawrence

Izard County
Patricia Goines

Jackson County
Pearl Gilmore
Margaret Goodman
Janice Smith

Sharp County
Judy Brown

Woodruff
June Simmons

Region III – East

**2005 E Highland/Fountain Sq
PO Box 5035
Jonesboro AR 72403
870-972-5980**

Clay County
Earl Ladyman

Craighead County
Carolyn Coleman

Crittenden County
Wayne Fuller

Cross County
Jerlene Duncan

Greene County
Betty Harpole

Lawrence County
Kay Greenway

Lee County
Cecilia Baker

Mississippi County
Tobey Johnson

Phillips County
Gloris Curne

Poinsett County
Nora Lowry

Randolph County
Mike Dunn

St. Francis County
Shirley Baldwin

At-Large
Ina Brown
Barbara Davidson
Carltha Crockett

Region IV – Southeast

**709 East 8th
PO Box 8569
Pine Bluff AR 71611
870-543-6300**

Ashley

Eva Marie Pearson

Cleveland County

Martha Ann Dunkin
Cynthia Murders

Desha County

Lela Gamble

Drew

David Kitchen

Grant County

Norman D. Clark

Jefferson

County Phillip McBee
Brenda Brown
Grace Deere
Patricia Burton
Jerline Johnson
Joyce Jackson

Chicot

Freddie Jenkins

Lincoln

Barbara Goodwin

At-Large

Patricia Clark

Region V – CareLink

**706 West 4th Street
PO Box 5988
North Little Rock AR 72119
501-372-5300**

Faulkner County

Denise Warren

Lonoke County

Susan Weaver

Pulaski County

Rev. Dr. Naomi Rogers

Mary Henry

Jim Wood

Derotha McIntosh-Webb

Rita Qualls

Judy Ramer

Saline County

Terry Parson- *At Large*

Prairie

Leona Travis

Region VI – West Central

**905 W Grand Avenue
Hot Springs AR 71913
501-321-2811**

Conway County

Janie Heistand
Kenneth Hester

Yell County

Ramona Jolly
Donna Hester

Perry County

Bill Jolly

Hotsprings County

Wayne Welchman

Clark County

Marie Welchman

At-Large

Karen Hofford
Sylvia Stone
Missy Masterson-Hale

Region VII – Southwest

**600 Columbia, 11E
PO Box 1863
Magnolia AR 71754-1863
870-234-7410**

Columbia County

Kathryn Todd
Judy Gaylor
Pam Goodman
Polly Gaitlin

Calhoun County

Vivian Jackson

Dallas County

Lynn Jurls

Hempstead County

Kim Smith

Miller County

Billie Lindo

Sevier County

Ricky Jurls

Little River County

Elbert Bradley Jr.

Howard County

Vivian Wright

Nevada County

Julie Oliver

Region VIII – West

**524 Garrison
PO Box 1724
Fort Smith AR 72902
479-783-4500**

Crawford County
Donna Keenom

Franklin County
Herbert Holloway

Sebastian County
Mary Radley

Scott County
Marilyn Hicks
Patsy Vaughn

Alternate
Elaine Hankins

Session Overview

BILL & RESOLUTION #	TITLE	DO PASS	FAILED
SHLS B01	Enter into legislation a law that would cease certain tax requirements on items for seniors who are 60 and older be it enacted by the silver haired legislature of the state of Arkansas	P	
SHLS B02	Add a standard sales tax on smokeless tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, at the same sales tax rate as cigarette products to increase funding to meal programs, transportation programs, senior center services, and senior center operations and facilities.	P	
SHLS B03	Eliminate the 0.125 percent tax on food and food ingredients be it enacted by the silver haired legislature of the state of Arkansas.	P	
SHLS B04	Establish a new tax credit for landscaping services for seniors.		Scratched
SHLS B05	Increase funding for senior centers from medical marijuana sales and privilege tax be it enacted by the silver haired legislature of the state of Arkansas.	P	
SHLS B06	Increase operational funding for senior centers be it enacted by the silver haired legislature of the state of Arkansas. (Combined Bill 5 & 6)		Scratched
SHLS B07	Create opportunities to serve as a senior ombudsman in medical facilities.	P	
SHLS B08	Protect seniors and disabled persons from misleading marketing, predatory practices.	P	
SHLS B09	Address the growing need for personal care aides due to the increasing senior population, as well as increase employment opportunities for the citizens of the state of Arkansas through state agency collaboration to train personal care aides be it resolved by the silver haired legislature of the state of Arkansas.	P	
SHLS B10	Provide training programs and job-skills development for seniors who are working later in life be it enacted by the silver haired legislature of the state of Arkansas.	P	
SHLS B11	Improving adult protective service in-home assessments performed on seniors be it enacted by the silver haired legislature of the state of Arkansas.	P	

BILL & RESOLUTION #	TITLE	DO PASS	FAILED
SHLS B12	Address the need for transportation for seniors for round-trip medical appointments. (Region V- Combined Bill) Enhance funding for transportation services be it enacted by the silver haired legislature of the state of Arkansas.	P	
SHLS B13	Enhance funding for transportation services be it enacted by the silver haired legislature of the state of Arkansas.	P	
SHLS B14	Create a state fund or policy for senior center claims in repairs or replacements not covered by insurance be it enacted by the silver haired legislature of the state of Arkansas.	P	
SHLS B15	Increase the funding for senior centers in the state of Arkansas. (Region I, Region V, VII, & Region II Combined Bills) Increase funding for Arkansas senior centers. Increase the funding for senior centers in the state of Arkansas. Increase senior center funding and change the funding formula to include participation. (Bill 15, 16,17,18)	P	
SHLS B16	Combined		Scratched
SHLS B17	Combined		Scratched
SHLS B19	Receive full funding for senior centers utilizing the total budget from state senior center funding be it enacted by the silver haired legislature of the state of Arkansas. (Region III, Region I Combined Bills 19, 20) Assure full funding of the \$10 million appropriation for state senior citizens center funding.	P	
SHLS B20	Combined		Scratched
SHLS B21	Increase AR Choices waiver program reimbursement rates with Annual adjustments for home and community-based services be it enacted by the silver haired legislature of the state of Arkansas.	P	
SHLS B22	Increase the in-home services rate to reflect current operation costs.		Scratched
SHLS B23	Restore and increase funding for the state older worker program	P	
SHLS R01	Increase the communications and networking between senior adult centers, administration and/or participants, area agency on aging, and state administration to enhance the quality of senior adult center services be it enacted by the silver haired legislature of the state of Arkansas.	P	
SHLS RO2	Require an annual report on both state and federal tax expenditures by county.	P	

Appendix A

Final Legislation

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21

THE 2024 SILVER HAIRED LEGISLATIVE SESSION

A BILL

SILVER HAIRED BILL NO: 1

COMMITTEE: LEGAL-REVENUE AND TAX

BY: Herbert Holloway
(REGION VIII – WESTERN ARKANSAS)

A Silver Haired Legislative Bill To:

**ENTER INTO LEGISLATION A LAW THAT WOULD CEASE CERTAIN TAX
REQUIREMENTS ON ITEMS FOR SENIORS WHO ARE 60 AND OLDER BE IT
ENACTED BY THE SILVER HAIRED LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF
ARKANSAS:**

WHEREAS, seniors who are 60 and older have a lower income and may not be able to afford taxes on their property or groceries.

WHEREAS, many seniors are having to choose between the cost of food and medications and other basic necessities and who would go without food in order to pay

22 for medications. It is estimated that 17.5% of Arkansans over 60 are either food insecure
23 or face the threat of becoming so.

24

25 **WHEREAS**, seniors who are 60 and older are currently required to pay property taxes
26 and many have low or fixed incomes.

27

28 **WHEREAS**, we ask that a law be entered into legislation that would cease property and
29 grocery taxes for seniors who are 60 and older.

30

31 **THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED** by the 2024 Silver Haired Legislative Session of the
32 State of Arkansas that seniors who are over 60 and whose income is at SSBG level are no
33 longer required to pay taxes on groceries or property.

1 **THE 2024 SILVER HAired LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

2 **A BILL**

3
4 SILVER HAired BILL NO: 2

5
6 COMMITTEE: LEGAL-REVENUE AND TAX

7
8 BY: Terry Parsons, Willie Anderson, Derotha Webb McIntosh, Jim Wood, Judy Ramer,
9 Mary Henry, Dr. Naomi Rogers, Leona Travis, Susan Weaver, Denise Warren, Rita
10 Qualls
11 (REGION V – CARELINK)

12
13 **A Silver Haired Legislative Bill To:**

14 **ADD A STANDARD SALES TAX ON SMOKELESS TOBACCO PRODUCTS,**
15 **INCLUDING E-CIGARETTES, AT THE SAME SALES TAX RATE AS**
16 **CIGARETTE PRODUCTS TO INCREASE FUNDING TO MEAL PROGRAMS,**
17 **TRANSPORTATION PROGRAMS, SENIOR CENTER SERVICES, AND**
18 **SENIOR CENTER OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES. BE IT ENACTED BY THE**
19 **SILVER HAired LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:**

20
21 **WHEREAS;** smokeless tobacco products are not included in an excise tax to the state of
22 Arkansas; and

23
2024 Silver Haired Legislative Session

24 **WHEREAS**; cigarette revenue has declined due to increased use of smokeless tobacco
25 products; and

26

27 **WHEREAS**, senior center services provide necessary programs to communities with
28 nutritional meals, social activities, transportation, and health and wellness programs; and

29

30 **WHEREAS**, the need for these services exceeds the funding available; and

31

32 **WHEREAS**, the demand for senior center services has increased. The number of older
33 people in Arkansas over the age of 65 will double in the next 20 years, causing an even
34 larger burden on senior center services;

35

36 **THEREFORE**, be it enacted by the 2024 Silver Haired Legislature of the State of
37 Arkansas that smokeless tobacco and e-cigarettes be taxed by the State of Arkansas at the
38 same rate as cigarettes and be distributed via the intrastate funding formula to be used for
39 meal programs, transportation programs, senior center services, and senior center
40 operations and facilities.

1 **THE 2024 SILVER HAired LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

2 **A BILL**

3
4 SILVER HAired BILL NO. 3

5
6 COMMITTEE: LEGAL-REVENUE AND TAX

7
8 By: Eva Marie Pearson, Jeanette Bradshaw Lightfoot, Phil McBee, Freddie Jenkins,
9 Cynthia Murders

10
11 (REGION IV – AREA AGENCY ON AGING OF SOUTHEAST)

12
13 **A Silver Haired Legislative Bill To:**

14
15 **ELIMINATE THE 0.125 PERCENT TAX ON FOOD AND FOOD INGREDIENTS**
16 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE SILVER HAired LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE**
17 **OF ARKANSAS**

18
19 **WHEREAS** the sale of food and food ingredients is taxed at the rate of 0.125 percent in
20 the State of Arkansas;

21
22 **WHEREAS**, this is a regressive tax, imposed upon every individual who makes a
23 purchase of food or food ingredients, which includes most common grocery-type food

1 items and foods packages for home consumption; food and food ingredients defined as
2 substance, whether in liquid, concentrated, solid, frozen, dried or dehydrated form that
3 are sold;

4
5 **WHEREAS**, the State of Arkansas is one of 13 states to impose this tax upon its
6 citizenry. The tax has stood at 0.125 percent since 2019;

7
8 **WHEREAS**, according to the Federal Department of Agriculture in 2024, the average
9 family of four spends between \$130 and \$300 per week on food that is taxed at this rate,
10 and the cost of food has increased between 2019 and 2023 by 25 percent.

11
12 **WHEREAS**, in calendar year 2023, \$9.8 million was collected in in tax on food and food
13 ingredients and there is a projected surplus of more than \$700 million in the State’s
14 budget for 2024;

15
16 **THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED** by the 2024 Silver Haired Legislative Session of the
17 State of Arkansas that the 0.125 percent tax on food and food ingredients be eliminated.

1 *THE 2024 SILVER HAIRED LEGISLATIVE SESSION*

2 **A BILL**

3
4 SILVER HAIRED BILL NO: 5

5
6 COMMITTEE: LEGAL-REVENUE AND TAX

7
8 BY: Tobey Johnson, Mike Dunn, Shirley Baldwin, Colonel Wayne Fuller

9 (REGION III – EAST ARKANSAS AREA AGENCY ON AGING)

10
11 **A Silver Haired Legislative Bill To:**

12 **INCREASE FUNDING FOR SENIOR CENTERS FROM MEDICAL**
13 **MARIJUANA SALES AND PRIVILEGE TAX BE IT ENACTED BY THE**
14 **SILVER HAIRED LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:**

15
16 **WHEREAS**, Senior Centers provide necessary services to communicate with nutritional
17 congregate meals and, home delivered meals. The current law allows for funds collected
18 through the sales of medical marijuana and privilege tax to be allocated toward food
19 insecurity and

20
21 **WHEREAS**, the need for services exceeds the funding available. The senior centers
22 have increased costs to provide services, including state minimum wage increases, raw
23 food, supplies for meals and, fuel to deliver the meals and

24

25 **WHEREAS**, the demand for senior center services has also increased. There are more
26 seniors across the state that need access to food who are on a fixed income. Most senior
27 centers have a waiting list for home delivered meals and

28

29 **WHEREAS**, the number of older people in Arkansas over the age of 60 is projected to
30 increase in the coming years causing a larger impact on senior center services; Arkansas
31 is currently ranked amongst the highest in food insecurity with approximately 17% of
32 older adults in Arkansas currently suffer from food insecurity.

33

34 **THEREFORE**, be it enacted by the 2024 Silver Haired Legislative Session of the State
35 of Arkansas that funding for Senior Centers be increased by allocating 25% of the tax and
36 privilege tax received on the sale of medical marijuana, recreational marijuana, if such
37 sale of recreational marijuana becomes approved by the Arkansas State Legislature at
38 some future time, tobacco related items such as smokeless chewing tobacco and nicotine
39 products such as e-cigarettes and vaping devices

1 **THE 2024 SILVER HAired LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

2 **A BILL**

3
4 SILVER HAired BILL NO: 07

5
6 COMMITTEE: AGING ISSUES

7
8 BY: Sylvia Stone, Karen Hofford, Missy Masterson-Hale, Janie Hiestand, Wayne Welchman,
9 and Marie Welchman
10 (REGION VI – AREA AGENCY ON AGING OF WEST CENTRAL ARKANSAS)

11
12 **A Silver Haired Legislative Bill To:**

13 **CREATE OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AS A SENIOR OMBUDSMAN IN MEDICAL**
14 **FACILITIES**

15
16 BE IT ENACTED BY THE SILVER HAired LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF
17 ARKANSAS:

18
19 **WHEREAS**, studies show that having someone as an advocate well-versed and passionate about
20 geriatric care in a medical setting results in better senior patient health outcomes; and

21
22 **WHEREAS**, many seniors are unable to have someone in the medical facility with them during
23 hospitalization; and

24

25 **WHEREAS**, experienced nurses are beginning to retire yet are still wanting to serve the aging
26 community in volunteer roles; and

27

28 **WHEREAS**, it is cost effective for the State to help seniors remain living in their own homes;
29 and

30

31 **WHEREAS**, the State of Arkansas currently has an Ombudsman program to assist seniors in
32 nursing home and assisted living facilities, after which this program could be modeled.

33

34 **WHEREAS**, seniors have the right for their voices to be clearly heard, believed, and understood
35 as they commonly face being underrepresented and underserved and face unique challenges in
36 their medical care.

37

38 **THEREFORE**, be it enacted by the 2024 Silver Haired Legislative Session of the State of
39 Arkansas to create opportunities to serve as a senior ombudsman in medical facilities.

1 **THE 2024 SILVER HAired LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

2 **A BILL**

3
4 SILVER HAired BILL NO: 08

5
6 COMMITTEE: AGING ISSUES

7
8 BY: Pam Goodman

9 (REGION VII – AREA AGENCY ON AGING OF SOUTHWEST ARKANSAS)

10
11 **A Silver Haired Legislative Bill To:**

12 **PROTECT SENIORS AND DISABLED PERSONS FROM MISLEADING**
13 **MARKETING, PREDATORY PRACTICES**

14
15 **WHEREAS**, it is the intent of this Silver Haired Legislature of the State of Arkansas:

- 16 1) To protect seniors and disabled persons from misleading marketing and
17 predatory practices that lead to loss of health care coverage and medical
18 benefits.
- 19 2) To commit to that protection via consequences for individual agents and third-
20 party marketers/advertisers through the authority of the Arkansas Attorney
21 General

22
23 **WHEREAS**, Unlike Original Medicare, Medicare Advantage Plans (Mas), also know as

24 Part C, and D are administered, marketed, and sold by private insurance companies. The
25 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) produce Medicare Marketing
26 Guidelines that are for use by MAs, Medicare Advantage Prescription Drug Plans (MA-
27 PDs), Prescription Drug Plans (PDPs) and 1876 Cost Plans.

28

29 **WHEREAS**, 1) Communications is defined as: All materials/activities that provide
30 information to current and prospective enrollees. 2) Marketing is defined as: A subset of
31 communications that has the intent to influence a beneficiary’s decision about their
32 healthcare coverage AND includes marketing content. 3) Unsolicited Enrollee Contact is
33 defined as: Engagement without prior permission to contact including door-to-door
34 solicitations, telephone solicitations including voice mails or text messages.

35

36

37 **WHEREAS**, the private insurance companies hire independent agents and third party
38 marketing/advertising services. Although CMS attempts to hold MAs, etc. responsible on
39 the federal level, communications, marketing materials, and unsolicited enrollee contact
40 still occur. When a beneficiary ceases coverage with a private insurance company, their
41 classification within said company should be considered an unsolicited enrollee for
42 marketing purposes. For these reasons it is necessary to provide protections on a state
43 level.

44

45 **THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED**, by the 2024 Silver Haired Legislature of the State of
46 Arkansas that authority be granted to the Attorney General’s office in conjunction with

2024 Silver Haired Legislative Session

47 the Arkansas Insurance Department to provide intervention and assistance to consumers,
48 including elder persons or persons with a disability, by holding these entities responsible
49 through the administration of a fine for any violation and/or restriction of license.

1 **THE 2024 SILVER HAired LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

2 **A BILL**

3
4 SILVER HAired BILL NO: 09

5
6 COMMITTEE: AGING ISSUES

7
8 BY: Sylvia Stone, Karen Hofford, Missy Masterson-Hale, Janie Hiestand, Wayne Welchman,
9 and Marie Welchman
10 (REGION VI – AREA AGENCY ON AGING OF WEST CENTRAL ARKANSAS)

11
12 **A Silver Haired Legislative Bill To:**

13 **ADDRESS THE GROWING NEED FOR PERSONAL CARE AIDES DUE TO THE**
14 **INCREASING SENIOR POPULATION, AS WELL AS INCREASE EMPLOYMENT**
15 **OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS THROUGH**
16 **STATE AGENCY COLLABORATION TO TRAIN PERSONAL CARE AIDES BE IT**
17 **RESOLVED BY THE SILVER HAired LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF**
18 **ARKANSAS:**

19
20 **WHEREAS**, more than 10,000 Americans turn 65 each day, and the number of adults age 65
21 and older requiring personal care to remain as independent as possible, is projected to rise by
22 more than 70 percent nationally over the next quarter century; and

24 **WHEREAS**, home care occupations have the highest growth rate in new jobs; and

25

26 **WHEREAS**, a study by AARP, formerly the American Association of Retired Persons, reported
27 that there are monumental and persistent staffing challenges in the medical career field.

28

29 **WHEREAS**, low- or no-cost training for personal care aides is no longer available from the
30 Arkansas Department of Health; and

31

32 **WHEREAS**, the need for caregivers will continue to grow as the population ages and the older
33 adult generation requires more assistance; and

34

35 **WHEREAS**, the infrastructure and resources currently exist to provide personal care aide
36 training through several state agencies, including Workforce Services, Arkansas Department of
37 Health, Arkansas Department of Education and the Workforce Alliance for Growth in the
38 Economy (WAGE) program; and

39

40 **WHEREAS**, providing personal care training to older workers as well as younger workers,
41 provides older adults with both employment opportunities and needed assistance.

42

43 **THEREFORE**, it enacted by the 2024 Silver Haired Legislative Session of the State of
44 Arkansas that these aforementioned state agencies and other stakeholders as appropriate and
45 interested, be directed to collaborate and use their existing infrastructure and resources to train
46 home care aides at low- or no-cost to the trainees, thus solving the issue of care as the aging

2024 Silver Haired Legislative Session

47 population in need of care increases.

1 **THE 2024 SILVER HAIRED LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

2 **A BILL**

3
4 SILVER HAIRED BILL NO: 10

5
6 COMMITTEE: B – AGING ISSUES

7
8 BY: Donna Keenom

9 (REGION VIII – AREA AGENCY ON AGING OF WESTERN ARKANSAS)

10
11 **A Silver Haired Legislative Bill To:**

12 **PROVIDE TRAINING PROGRAMS AND JOB-SKILLS DEVELOPMENT FOR**
13 **SENIORS WHO ARE WORKING LATER IN LIFE BE IT ENACTED BY THE**
14 **SILVER HAIRED LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:**

15
16 **WHEREAS**, studies have shown that older Americans are having to work longer, into
17 their 60s and 70s, and longer in their life. Roughly one-in-five Americans ages 65 and
18 older were employed in 2023, nearly double the total of those who were working 35 years
19 ago. Not only are older workers increasing in number, but their earning power has grown
20 in recent decades.

21
22 **WHEREAS**, Policy changes have discouraged early retirement. Changes to the Social
23 Security System, which raised the age that workers receive their full retirement benefits

24 from 65 to 67, likely have encouraged older adults to delay retirement and continue
25 working.

26

27 **WHEREAS**, many seniors who must continue working in their later life do not have
28 access to job-training programs in order develop skills that would keep them
29 knowledgeable of the competitive job market and contribute to the success of obtaining
30 desirable employment.

31

32 **THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED** by the 2024 Silver Haired Legislative Session of the
33 State of Arkansas that the State create a line item in the fiscal budget to pay for training
34 programs for valuable seniors in the workplace.

1 **THE 2024 SILVER HAired LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

2 **A BILL**

3
4 SILVER HAired BILL NO: 11

5
6 COMMITTEE: B – AGING ISSUES

7
8 BY: Mary Radley

9 (REGION VIII – AREA AGENCY ON AGING OF WESTERN ARKANSAS)

10
11 **A Silver Haired Legislative Bill To:**

12 **IMPROVING ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICE IN-HOME ASSESSMENTS**

13 **PERFORMED ON SENIORS BE IT ENACTED BY THE SILVER HAired**

14 **LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:**

15
16 **WHEREAS**, senior assessments conducted in the home by Adult Protective Services
17 need to be improved.

18
19 **WHEREAS**, there have been reported instances of seniors who were not properly
20 assessed by Adult Protective Services who were in dangerous situations and needed
21 assistance that was not provided.

22

23 **WHEREAS**, the adult protective services program needs better quality staff, improved
24 procedures and evaluation criteria of seniors in their home when they are performing
25 assessments on seniors.

26

27 **THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED** by the 2024 Silver Haired Legislative Session of the
28 State of Arkansas that Adult Protective Services for In-Home Assessments Performed on
29 Seniors will be Improved.

1 **THE 2024 SILVER HAIRED LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

2 **A BILL**

3
4 SILVER HAIRED BILL NO: 12

5
6 COMMMITTEE: SENIOR CENTERS

7
8 **By:** Ricky Jurls and Vivian Wright

9 (REGION VII – AAA OF SOUTHWEST ARKANSAS)

10
11 **A Silver Haired Legislative Bill To:**

12 **ADDRESS THE NEED FOR TRANSPORTATION FOR SENIORS FOR ROUND-**
13 **TRIP MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS**

14
15 **WHEREAS**, according to the Highway and Transportation Act of 1977, specifically AR
16 Code § 27-1-106 (2020):

17 (1) Transportation is a critical problem for the elderly, individuals with disabilities, and
18 others without access to the use of a private automobile;

19 (2) Public transportation in the rural and small urban areas in Arkansas is lacking;

20 (3) Public subsidy of public transportation, whether privately or publicly operated, is
21 often necessary to provide needed transportation services; etc.; and

22

23 **WHEREAS**, “people in rural areas may experience a lack of access to healthier foods
24 and adequate healthcare that persons in urban areas may not experience,” according to the
25 Arkansas State Plan on Aging 07/01/2023 which includes a survey concluding that
26 transportation is among the top most significant gap in services for seniors. Seniors in
27 rural populations are more likely to have to travel long distances to access healthcare
28 services, especially specialist services. Additionally, there is a gap in financial resources
29 to qualify for these services causing many beneficiaries to fall through the gap; and
30

31 **WHEREAS**, the Division of Aging, Adult, and Behavioral Health Services in Arkansas
32 has identified this need and made an objective to “Strengthen and expand access to Title
33 III transportation services by increasing collaboration between AAAs [Area Agencies on
34 Aging] and transportation providers within their planning service areas,” but many rural
35 areas are lacking in providers.
36

37 **THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED**, by the 2024 Silver Haired Legislature of the State of
38 Arkansas that a voucher for rural public transit systems, i.e. the South Central Arkansas
39 Transit (SCAT) program, be established for a round-trip for non-emergency medical
40 transportation (NEMT) medical professional appointments for adults aged 60 and over
41 and persons with disabilities who live in their own homes or apartments and do not
42 qualify for a Medicaid Fee-For-Service (FFS) program.
43

44 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER ENACTED**, that in order to qualify for a voucher an
45 individual living independently must not qualify for FFS and their income must not

46 exceed 200% of the federal poverty line.

47

48 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER ENACTED**, that a limit be placed on vouchers to the
49 total of 24 in a calendar year benefit period after which an individual may apply again.

50

51 **THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED**, by the 2024 Silver Haired Legislature of the State of
52 Arkansas that a standard sales tax be assessed on vaping products, including vaping
53 devices, liquid nicotine, and all e-cigarette products is recommended to cover the cost of
54 a new transportation voucher program.

55

56 **THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER ENACTED**, that funding for a new transportation
57 voucher program cost be covered by allocation 25% of the tax received on the sale of
58 vape products, if such a tax becomes approved by the Arkansas State Legislature at some
59 future time.

1 **THE 2024 SILVER HAired LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

2 **A BILL**

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4 SILVER HAired BILL NO: 13

5
6 COMMITTEE: SENIOR CENTERS

7
8 BY: Terry Parsons, Willie Anderson, Derotha Webb McIntosh, Jim Wood, Judy Ramer,
9 Mary Henry, Dr. Naomi Rogers, Leona Travis, Susan Weaver, Denise Warren, Rita
10 Qualls
11 (REGION V - CARELINK)

12
13 **A Silver Haired Legislative Bill To:**

14 **ENHANCE FUNDING FOR TRANSPORTATION SERVICES BE IT ENACTED**
15 **BY THE SILVER HAired LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:**

16
17 **WHEREAS;** there is a rapidly growing need for safe, accessible, convenient, and
18 affordable transportation options for older adults; and

19
20 **WHEREAS;** transportation has been deemed a social determinant of health, noting that a
21 lack of transportation access can have wide-ranging and lasting impacts on a person’s
22 health and well-being due to missed healthcare appointments, increased safety risks, and
23 access to food and preventive care; and

24

25 **WHEREAS**; transportation can reduce social isolation, enhance individual autonomy,
26 and psychosocial well-being; and

27

28 **WHEREAS**, nearly 90% of older adults choose to age in place in their homes and
29 communities and next to health, transportation is the most important issue for seniors
30 striving to maintain independence;

31

32 **THEREFORE**, be it resolved that Arkansas will allocate an additional \$5,000,000 in
33 State Senior Center Services Fund dollars to assist with providing transportation services
34 for seniors.

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THE 2024 SILVER HAired LEGISLATIVE SESSION

A BILL

SILVER HAired BILL NO: 14

COMMITTEE: SENIOR CENTERS

BY: Patricia Goines, Connie Lawrence, Steve Choate, Margaret Goodman, June
Simmons, Coy Bennet, Janice Smith and Pearl Gilmore
(REGION II – WHITE RIVER AREA AGENCY ON AGING)

**A Silver Haired Legislative Bill To
CREATE A STATE FUND OR POLICY FOR SENIOR CENTER CLAIMS IN
REPAIRS OR REPLACEMENTS NOT COVERED BY INSURANCE BE IT
ENACTED BY THE SILVER HAired LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF
ARKANSAS**

WHEREAS, Federal and State funding sources do not allow for capitol improvements or
vital equipment repairs in Arkansas’s senior centers.

THEREFORE, be it enacted by the 2024 Silver Haired Legislative Session of the State
of Arkansas that the state of Arkansas facilitates and fund an account and/or insurance
policy to guarantee unfunded expenses can be paid to assure senior nutrition and services
continue throughout the state.

1 *THE 2024 SILVER HAired LEGISLATIVE SESSION*

2 *A BILL*

3
4 SILVER HAired BILL NO: 15

5
6 COMMITTEE: SERVICE RATES-FUNDING

7
8 By: Darryl Treat, Elbert Bradley, Billie Lindo, Ricky Jurls, Cynthia Harrison, Maddie Kiefer,
9 and Bill Ray Lewis
10 (REGIONS VII and I)

11
12 *A Silver Haired Legislative Bill To:*

13 **INCREASE THE FUNDING FOR SENIOR CENTERS IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS**

14
15 **WHEREAS**, original funding for senior centers began with the Older Americans Act of 1965,
16 and The State Senior Center Services Fund has not received an increase in almost a decade,
17 therefore no longer covering expenses set forth; and

18
19 **WHEREAS**, the number of older people in Arkansas is increasing at historic rates. The current
20 estimation of growth is that the number of 60-and-older population will grow from 12.9% of the
21 Arkansas population to 26% by the year 2030; and

22
23 **WHEREAS**, the senior centers are a crucial part of the lives of elder persons and their

2024 Silver Haired Legislative Session

24 caregivers, especially in rural areas, which serves to help with isolation, loneliness and
25 depression, food insecurity; and

26

27 **WHEREAS**, the cost of provision of services which includes, home-delivered meals, congregate
28 meals, socialization and transportation has increased. There is an increase in food costs, gas/fuel
29 and vehicle costs, transporting of food items, wages, and other general operating costs; and

30 **WHEREAS**, the 2023 U.S. Census Bureau estimate for the 60 and older population in the state
31 of Arkansas is 21.6% of the Arkansas population; and

32

33 **WHEREAS**, the Arkansas senior population has made significant contributions to the economic
34 and cultural progress of Arkansas; and

35

36 **WHEREAS**, the senior population is still an excellent source of positive contributions to
37 Arkansas; and

38

39 **WHEREAS**, the inflationary impact of food, housing, insurance, transportation, etc. is very
40 harmful to seniors on fixed or low incomes; and

41

42 **WHEREAS**, food insecurity has worsened in Arkansas, with nearly 19% of the state's
43 population struggling to access healthy meals in 2022, the Arkansas Advocate reports.

44 The state's food insecurity rate in 2022 was the second highest in the nation, with only

45 Mississippi in front by 0.2%, according to new data from Feeding America. By county: Every

46 county in Arkansas reported a food insecurity rate higher than the national average of 13.5%, and

47 Searcy County reported the highest overall rate at 24.5%.

48

49 **WHEREAS**, seniors provide a vital source of mentorship, counsel, community volunteerism,
50 and care of grandchildren for absent parents, there should be equity in state funding to protect
51 and support their vital contributions; and

52

53 **WHEREAS**, senior center funding today relies on high levels of fundraising activities in many
54 communities that have low levels of income and high competition from other charity
55 organizations also conduction fundraising; and

56

57 **WHEREAS**, senior center fundraising also competes against struggling businesses that have
58 small profit margins when resources, heavily provided by business tax remittance, are readily
59 available to the state of Arkansas:

60

61 **THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED**, by the 2024 Silver Haired Legislature of the State of
62 Arkansas that funding for Senior Centers be increased by:

63 Allocation of 25% of the tax received on the sale of alcohol and medical marijuana. And/Or

64 By allocating 25% of the tax received of recreational marijuana, if such a tax becomes approved
65 by the Arkansas State Legislature at some future time.

66 And/or

67 That senior center funding shall be increased at the same percentage rate increase given to higher
68 education in each fiscal year budget.

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THE 2024 SILVER HAired LEGISLATIVE SESSION

A BILL

SILVER HAired BILL NO: 19

COMMITTEE: SERVICE RATES-FUNDING

BY: Leroy Williams, Cecilia Baker, Jerelene Duncan, Carolyn Coleman, and Kay
Greenway, Wayne Mays, Shirley Moon, Brenda Smyth
(REGIONS III and I)

**A Silver Haired Legislative Bill To:
RECEIVE FULL FUNDING FOR SENIOR CENTERS UTILIZING THE TOTAL
BUDGET FROM STATE SENIOR CENTER FUNDING BE IT ENACTED BY
THE SILVER HAired LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS**

WHEREAS, Senior centers provide a necessary service to communities with
nutritional congregate meals, nutritional home delivered meals, social activities,
transportation, educational opportunities, and health and wellness programs; and

WHEREAS, the need for these services, exceeds the portion of the approved
amount for State Senior Center funding that is being allocated. The full allocation needs

23 to be released so that the center can meet the increased costs. Senior Centers have
24 increased cost to provide services, including state minimum wage increase for salaries of
25 workers, raw food costs, fuel to deliver meals, fuel to transport passengers, utilities, home
26 delivered meal packaging supplies, facility, and vehicle insurance; and

27

28 **WHEREAS**, the demand for senior center services has also increased. There are more
29 seniors across the state that are accessing services as the cost of food, gas, and utilities
30 have increased for themselves while being on a fixed income; and

31

32 **WHEREAS**, the number of older people in Arkansas over the age of 60 will double in
33 the next 20 years causing an even larger burden on Senior Center Services; and

34

35 **WHEREAS**, senior citizens depend on these services to keep active and healthy
36 through programs offered at the senior centers and to also keep them living
37 independently in their own homes as long as possible.

38

39 **WHEREAS**, the growing aging population in the state of Arkansas has resulted in an
40 increased need for supporting services; and

41

42 **WHEREAS**, since 2020, senior programs have benefited from one-time funding from
43 federal sources, during the pandemic, which are required to be spent by 9/30/2024,
44 creating a sense of urgency; and

45

46 **WHEREAS**, the Arkansas Legislature has increased the appropriation of State Senior
47 Citizens Center Funding to the current level of \$10 million in prior sessions; and

48

49 **WHEREAS**, the funding level approval in the Revenue Stabilization Act continues to
50 remain at \$5 million; and

51

52 **WHEREAS**, this additional funding would help address inflation pressures from
53 growing food and labor costs resulting in food insecurity for senior citizens.

54

55 **WHEREAS**, food insecurity has worsened in Arkansas, with nearly 19% of the state's
56 population struggling to access healthy meals in 2022, the Arkansas Advocate reports.
57 The state's food insecurity rate in 2022 was the second highest in the nation, with only
58 Mississippi in front by 0.2%, according to new data from Feeding America. By
59 county: Every county in Arkansas reported a food insecurity rate higher than the national
60 average of 13.5%, and Searcy County reported the highest overall rate at 24.5%.

61

62 **THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED** by the 2024 Silver Haired Legislative Session of the
63 State of Arkansas that all funds allocated (\$10 million) to the State Senior Center Grant
64 be fully funded for use in Senior Centers that receive State Senior Center Grant funding.

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THE 2024 SILVER HAired LEGISLATIVE SESSION

A BILL

SILVER HAired BILL NO: 21

COMMITTEE: SERVICE RATES- FUNDING

BY: Patricia Goines, Connie Lawrence, Steve Choate, Margaret Goodman, June Simmons,
Coy Bennet, Janice Smith, and Pearl Gilmore Betty Harpole, Nora Lowry, Lydia O’Grady,
Barbara Davidson, Carltha Crockett

(REGIONS II and III)

A Silver Haired Legislative Bill To:

INCREASE AR CHOICES WAIVER PROGRAM REIMBURSEMENT RATES

WITH

ANNUAL ADJUSTMENTS FOR HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

BE IT ENACTED BY THE SILVER HAired LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE

OF ARKANSAS:

WHEREAS, Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) assist with daily

21 activities that help Medicaid Beneficiaries to remain in their homes; this includes services
22 such as; personal care, attendant care, home delivered meals, and other supportive services;

23

24 **WHEREAS**, these Medicaid services are essential to the health and viability of
25 of Arkansas’ seniors; and

26

27 **WHEREAS**, seniors want to reside in their own home or community rather than
28 institutions or other isolated settings; and

29

30 **WHEREAS**, home and community-based services are a cost -effective alternative to
31 facility placements for seniors; and

32

33 **WHEREAS**, Home and Community-Based Services require additional funding to
34 accommodate realistic rate structures and flexibility;

35

36 **WHEREAS**, ARCHOICES waiver Program reimbursement rate for Home delivered
37 meals is currently \$ 5.97; and

38

39 **WHEREAS**, this reimbursement rate has not been changed since 2009; and

40

41 **WHEREAS**, the cost of producing home delivered meals has increased greatly
42 over the last 15 years. Costs that have included minimum wage increase for
43 salaries of workers, raw food costs, utilities, meal packaging supplies, fuel
44 cost to deliver meals, vehicle maintenance and insurance costs; and

45

46 **WHEREAS**, Medicaid rates for home and community-based services are evaluated
47 four-year cycles. This evaluation does not provide a state rate that accounts for
48 inflation or wage growth; and

49

50 **WHEREAS**, there are roughly 17,000 paid caregivers in Arkansas with a 2023
51 median hourly wage of \$13.10 with an average national turnover rate of 65% annually;
52 and **WHEREAS**, rate adjustments for nursing homes are recalculated annually, the
53 Medicaid rates for In-Home Services have not had an increase in almost a decade.
54 Subsequently there has been a rise in cost-of-living expenses, the state minimum wage
55 has increased, fuel and vehicle costs have increased as well as utility expenses. The
56 number of senior citizens in Arkansas is forecast to double by the year 2030, and
57 statistically 90% of older adults choose age in place in their homes.

58

59 **WHEREAS**, in order to keep up with increased inflation and provide care for senior
60 citizens, additional funding is essential.

61

62

63 **THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED** by the 2024 Silver Haired Legislative Session of the
64 State

65 of Arkansas that ARCHOICES Waiver Program increase the rate of reimbursement
66 for home delivered meals to \$9.97 per meal, due to senior centers losing approximately
67 \$4.00 per meal currently; and for Personal Care, Attendant Care and Respite Care Services
68 for the state plan and waiver programs to offset inflationary cost and wage changes, by
69 adjusting the rate to reflect current operational cost and thereafter indexed to be based on
70 the COLA as set forth by the Social Security Administration.

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1 **THE 2024 SILVER HAired LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

2 **A BILL**

3

4 SILVER HAired BILL NO: 23

5

6 COMMITTEE: SERVICE RATES/FUNDING

7

8 BY: Jim Wood, Terry Parsons, Willie Anderson, Derotha Webb McIntosh, Judy Ramer,

9 Mary Henry, Dr. Naomi Rogers, Leona Travis, Susan Weaver, Denise Warren, Rita

10 Qualls

11 (REGION V – CARELINK)

12

13 **A Silver Haired Legislative Bill To:**

14 **RESTORE AND INCREASE FUNDING FOR THE STATE OLDER WORKER**

15 **PROGRAM BE IT ENACTED BY THE SILVER HAired LEGISLATURE OF**

16 **THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:**

17

18 **WHEREAS;** the last funding allocation change for the State Older Worker Program was

19 in FY2010 when it was reduced by \$79,340 to \$1,052,000 and has not changed since that

20 time; and

21

22 **WHEREAS;** the minimum wage has increased 76% since FY2010, leaving the program

23 to afford fewer workers with less hours to work; and

2024 Silver Haired Legislative Session

24

25 **WHEREAS;** the program benefits seniors with employment and training, as well as

26 senior centers and agencies by enhancing and providing needed services; and

27

28 **WHEREAS,** since the last change in State Older Worker Program funding, the number

29 of older Americans has increased by 36% leaving a greater need for employment

30 opportunities for workers in senior centers and senior service agencies;

31

32 **THEREFORE,** be it resolved that the State Older Worker Program funding be increased

33 by \$930,080 to \$1,900,000 to offset the increase in minimum wage and restore

34 employment levels to 2010 totals, and further to increase the number of older workers

35 under the program by increasing funding by \$1,100,000 for total annual funding of

36 \$3,000,000.

1 **THE 2024 SILVER HAIRD LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

2 **A RESOLUTION**

3
4 SILVER HAIRD RESOLUTION NO: 01

5
6 COMMITTEE: SENIOR CENTER

7
8 BY: Karen Hofford, Missy Masterson-Hale, Sylvia Stone, Janie Hiestand, Wayne
9 Welchman, and Marie Welchman

10 (REGION VI – AREA AGENCY ON AGING OF WEST CENTRAL ARKANSAS)

11
12 **A Silver Haired Legislative Resolution To:**

13 **INCREASE THE COMMUNICATIONS AND NETWORKING BETWEEN**
14 **SENIOR ADULT CENTERS, ADMINISTRATION AND/OR PARTICIPANTS,**
15 **AREA AGENCY ON AGING, AND STATE ADMINISTRATION TO ENHANCE**
16 **THE QUALITY OF SENIOR ADULT CENTER SERVICES BE IT ENACTED BY**
17 **THE SILVER HAIRD LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF**
18 **ARKANSAS:**

19
20 **WHEREAS**, the senior adult centers throughout the State of Arkansas are operated by
21 different entities; and

22
23 **WHEREAS**, each senior adult center may not be in communication with one another;

1 and

2

3 **WHEREAS**, there is a desire to grow and adapt new programs;

4

5 **WHEREAS**, evidence-based practices have proven that networking amongst peers have
6 increased efficiency and advancement in common practices at individual senior adult
7 centers.

8

9 **THEREFORE**, be it enacted by the 2024 Silver Haired Legislative Session of the State
10 of Arkansas that each of the eight regional Area Agency on Aging has regularly
11 scheduled meetings (at least annually) consisting of representative(s) from each senior
12 adult center.

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1 **THE 2024 SILVER HAired LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

2 **A RESOLUTION**

3
4 SILVER HAired RESOLUTION NO: 02

5
6 COMMITTEE: SERVICE RATES-FUNDING

7
8 BY: Darryl Treat, Cynthia Harrison, Bill Ray Lewis, Maddie Kiefer, Wayne Mays,
9 Shirley Moon, and Brenda Smyth
10 (REGION I – AREA AGENCY ON AGING OF NORTHWEST ARKANSAS)

11
12 **A Silver Haired Legislative Resolution To:**

13 **REQUIRE AN ANNUAL REPORT ON BOTH STATE AND FEDERAL TAX**
14 **EXPENDITURES BY COUNTY**

15
16 **WHEREAS**, distributions of federal and state tax revenues have positive impacts on the
17 lives of citizens; and

18
19 **WHEREAS**, Arkansas has 75 counties with varying degrees of economic prosperity; and

20
21 **WHEREAS**, the economic prosperity of each county has a correlation to the ability of
22 each county to support its senior population; and

24 **WHEREAS**, Arkansas has a need to be equitable in its support of its constituents; and

25

26 **WHEREAS**, visibility into state and federal tax dollars distributed by person by county
27 is enlightening and vital to a well-informed legislator and citizen, an annual report shall
28 be made available to the public. This report will inform where the greatest needs of future
29 expenditures are located.

30

31 **THEREFORE**, Be it resolved that the 2024 Silver Haired Legislature Session requests
32 visibility every year into federal and state expenditures annually by county in order to
33 uncover possible inequalities and allow a more informed budgetary process.

34