

Committee: General

RESOLUTION

Funding for Aging Services from Increased Tobacco Tax

A RESOLUTION TO fund aging services and programs from taxes generated from a tobacco tax, to increase revenue to the state for health care in general and to discourage our youth from using tobacco products.

WHEREAS, Estimates indicate a need of \$20 million per annum to provide current needed aging services such as family caregiver support, access and assistance, senior nutrition center renovation and repair and rural transportation; and,

WHEREAS, the extent of tobacco addition and devastating impairment to good health is now generally known and well publicized, but senior citizens did not have the advantage of the warnings and knowledge we have today. Many seniors now suffer from chronic illnesses and medical problems resulting from decades of tobacco use and these illnesses and problems are costly and frequently require family caregivers; and

WHEREAS, experience and planning forecasts in many other states indicate that increased taxes on tobacco products not only produce substantial increases in revenue, but at the same time discourage large numbers of our youth from becoming addicted to the tobacco habit due to the increased costs; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urge the Texas Legislature to increase taxes on all tobacco products, with the revenue used to specifically provide added funding to match federal funds allocated to Texas for the Family Caregiver Support Program authorized under the Older American's Act and to increase aging services available through the 28 area agencies on aging.

PASSED AND APPROVED on September 17, 2002, by the General Committee.

Harthia Bockmon, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on September 18, 2002 by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

Chris Kyker, Speaker

ATTEST:

Jean McCloud, Secretary