

Committee: Human Services

RESOLUTION
Preserve Texas Department on Aging

A RESOLUTION TO preserve the Texas Department on Aging as a visible single State Unit on Aging.

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 374, passed by the 76th Legislature, created a new commission on long-term care, consolidating the Texas Department on Aging and the Texas Department of Human Services (TDHS); and

WHEREAS, The Texas Department on Aging in partnership with the 28 Area Agencies on Aging have proactively responded to emerging new mandates and a variety of aging issues; and

WHEREAS, The proposed consolidation of state agencies will have a tremendous negative impact on the rapidly increasing population of elderly in the state due to the different missions and philosophies of these agencies as mandated by their unique funding sources, which would further confuse and disrupt the service delivery infrastructure at the local level; and,

WHEREAS, The service delivery philosophy of the Texas Department of Human Services evolved from the welfare system which is based on income means tests, functional needs, and other targeted eligibility criteria; and,

WHEREAS, The concept of local authority has enabled the planning, development, and evolution of an array of programs and services for the elderly at the community level; resulting in continued local support and commitment to these programs among the local citizenry, governments, church organizations, and funders; now, therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, That the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the Texas Legislature to preserve the Texas Department on Aging as a single State Unit on Aging through the year 2013 to ensure planning and advocacy for all older Texans regardless of income, social, and/or functional need, as well as to prepare for the tremendous impact of the aging of the baby boomers within the state of Texas by 2020.

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

Alice Stubbs, Chairman

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

ATTEST:

Chris Kyker, Speaker

Jean McCloud, Secretary