

Committee: _____

RESOLUTION

Expand Area Agencies on Aging Access System

A RESOLUTION TO: Expand the existing infrastructure of the 28 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and identify the AAAs as the access entry point for long-term care services within the Department of Aging and Disability Services.

WHEREAS, Area Agencies on Aging have been the front door to services for older adults in Texas for over 30 years as mandated by the Older American's Act, and the area agencies on aging have provided the leadership in developing regional access and assistance system plans in response to SB 374, 76th Legislature, 1999; and, the Area Agencies on Aging in Texas have extensive experience in the development of local coordinated systems of services that leverage significant funding from local governments, foundations, charitable giving and from consumers that can afford to pay a portion of the cost of their services; and

WHEREAS, HB 2292, 78th Legislature, 2003, consolidated the Texas Department on Aging, the Texas Department of Human Services and the mental retardation division of the Texas Department of Mental Health/Mental Retardation into the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS), using the functional model of service delivery; and

WHEREAS, In 24 states, access to aging services is located within the area agencies on aging, and in Texas the Area Agencies on Aging are the centralized points of access and assistance in their communities to a comprehensive array of services for caregivers, older adults, persons with disabilities and the general public; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED That, the 10th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature encourage and strongly recommend that the 79th Texas Legislature amend HB 2292, 78th Legislature, to expand the infrastructure of the existing 28 Area Agencies on Aging to be inclusive of persons with disabilities and identify the 28 Area Agencies on Aging of Texas as the access and assistance entry point for long- term care services within the Department of Aging and Disability Services.

PASSED AND APPROVED this____day of September, 2004, by

the _____Committee,

Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED this____day of September, 2004, by

by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

Chris Kyker, Speaker

ATTEST:

Al Campbell, Secretary