



Senior Services Growth and Development Program House Bill 337/ Senate Bill 86

The Bill

- Establishes a sustainable funding source for senior programs which is not meant to supplant appropriated funds.
- Obligates 5% of revenue collected through the Insurance Premium Tax be directed to AAA senior programs and services, and is phased in over a 2-year period
- The measure will provide much needed funding for programs and services for Missouri aging population which continues to grow.
- This legislation does NOT establish a new tax, the premium tax is an existing tax and is the oldest tax in Missouri
- This bill will not take away any funds currently directed to elementary and secondary education from this tax.

The Need

1. There is serious lack of sufficient and sustainable funding for senior services, programs aimed to keep seniors healthy, happy and in their homes.
 - AAA core budget was cut in 2008 and has never been fully restored.
 - In addition to the restoration of 2008 core funding, AAAs need a sustainable funding source that recognizes exponential senior population growth and the need to strengthen AAA home and community-based services.
 - If funding doesn't increase, services will continue to shrink.

2. The senior population continues to grow and the cost of services continues to rise while the appropriated funding has gone down.
 - The result is that services are limited; wait lists are growing; Medicaid costs rise as home and community-based services decrease and seniors suffer!
 - AAAs are only able to serve 10% of the eligible population.
 - Number of senior centers has decreased by 13% in the last 7 years.
 - With this funding, AAA services can provide more people with services in their homes to help prevent unnecessary hospitalizations and/or placement in nursing homes.

Revenue collected from the insurance premium tax have grown over the past 6 years. It is fair to say we will not be reducing existing GR but rather utilizing new dollars. It is not only fiscally responsible, but essential to direct these funds toward one of Missouri's greatest challenges: providing adequate, maintainable, quality services to one of our most vulnerable populations, Missouri's seniors.