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19th ANNUAL REPORT
JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
ON AGING



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South Carolina
General Assembly

May, 1988

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South Carolina
General Assembly

May, 1988

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I. INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT
May, 1988

To the Honorable Carroll A. Campbell, Jr., Governor of South Carolina, and members of the General Assembly of South Carolina:

The Joint Legislative Committee on Aging is pleased to submit the Nineteenth Annual Report of the Committee.

We accept with regret the resignation from our Committee of Senator William W. Doar. Senator Doar has served with us since 1980. He has demonstrated his interest in older South Carolinians in many ways and we will miss his support for our Committee activities. We wish him well as he retires from the Senate.

We welcome Senator Nell W. Smith to our Committee. Senator Smith has served in the Senate since 1981. She chairs the Joint Legislative Committee on Children. She serves on Corrections and Penology, Education, Judiciary, Medical Affairs and Rules Committees. Her activities reflect her concern for all South Carolinians and we look forward to working together.

We also received in January the resignation of Joseph Strickland, gubernatorial appointee, upon his appointment to serve as commissioner to the S.C. Commission on Aging. Although we regret his absence on our Committee, we are fortunate to have his service remaining in the aging field. We look forward to an additional gubernatorial appointee to fill this vacancy in the near future.

This year marks a major adjustment in our State retirement benefits. Members of the System will receive a ten percent increase, in addition to the four percent cost of living increase (R.528). For those members who retired prior to 1972, an additional one-time lump sum payment was included in the 1988-89 Appropriation bill which passed in June.

The bills introduced by our Committee which passed in this session are the Long Term Care

Insurance Act (R.518), State Employees Optional Long Term Care Insurance (R.574), and State Housing Authority and Home Equity Conversion, (R.661).

We anticipated passage of the Repeal of Mandatory Retirement (S.379) conforming our laws to the federal amendments to the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (H.R. 5154). However, a compromise between the House and Senate could not be reached before the close of the session.

Continuing care and retirement communities, tax incentives for long term care at home and adult day care are areas we will continue to pursue in preparation for the 1989 legislative session.

The Statewide Committee to Study the Number and Placement of Area Agencies on Aging has been established by the S. C. Commission on Aging. This Committee will be chaired by Dr. Joyce Tolbert of the Governor's Office. I will serve on this committee along with our Research Director, Ms. Keller Barron.

Our Annual Public Hearing will be held September 14, 1988, Room 101, Blatt Building, 1105 Pendleton Street, Columbia.

We appreciate the excellent cooperation we receive from the governor's office, state agencies, legislative staff, and colleagues in the House and Senate as we pursue the goal of improving the quality of life for all older South Carolinians.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Patrick B. Harris, Chairman, Representative

/s/Dave C. Waldrop, Jr., Vice-Chairman,
Representative

/s/Dill Blackwell, Representative

/s/William W. Doar, Jr., Senator (resigned)

/s/Peden B. McLeod, Senator

/s/Isadore E. Lourie, Senator

/s/Nell W. Smith, Senator

/s/Gloria H. Sholin, Gubernatorial Appointee

/s/Thomas D. Stilwell, Gubernatorial Appointee

II. BRIEF HISTORY

In 1959 the first Joint Legislative Committee "to study the needs and problems relating to the aged citizens in South Carolina" was created. This Committee continued its work until 1963. By 1969 the need for a committee to study the problems of the elderly in South Carolina was again evident and the legislature created such a committee under Concurrent Resolution No. 1286. This Committee continued under the authority of continuing resolutions until 1978 when the General Assembly found "the Committee to Study Public and Private Services, Programs and Facilities of the Aging fulfills a necessary and continuing legislative need and that the functions of the Committee can be more properly fulfilled by a permanent Committee," Act 402.

The Committee is made up of three members of the Senate, appointed by the President of the Senate, three members of the House, appointed by the Speaker, and three members appointed by the Governor. Serving as chair of the Committee have been, Representative Martha Thomas Fitzgerald, 1959-1963; Senator Richard W. Riley, 1969-1976; Senator Hyman Rubin, 1977-1984. Representative Patrick B. Harris is the current Chairman, elected on November 29, 1984.

Sarah C. Shuptrine was the first Director of Research. Keller H. Barron, formerly Bumgardner, succeeded her as Director of Research in 1979. Sherri L. Craft, Research Assistant, joined the staff in 1985.

III. LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 1988 SESSION

The Annual Public Hearing of the Study Committee on Aging was held on October 7, 1987. Twenty-seven persons appeared before the Committee and written testimony was submitted by six persons. State agencies, commissions, organizations, service

delivery groups and individual interests were represented.

The testimony presented before the Committee by these organizations is considered by the Committee in establishing its legislative priorities and focus for the upcoming legislative session.

The record of the hearing is available in the office of the Committee, 212 Blatt Building. Transcription copies are provided to appropriate state agencies and upon request to individuals and organizations.

The Committee met on November 5, 1987 to review the testimony presented, to discuss proposed legislation and to receive reports on issues under study.

A second meeting of the full Committee was held on April 4, 1988 to address concerns of the implementation of performance-based contracts and competitive proposals for the delivery of aging services following the adoption of Concurrent Resolution H.4038 which directed the S.C. Commission on Aging to delay the contracting process. After hearing remarks from the Councils on Aging, the Area Agencies on Aging and the S.C. Commission, the Committee took no formal action and referred the matter to the S.C. Commission on Aging.

THE FOLLOWING BILLS WERE CONSIDERED LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES BY THE COMMITTEE:

**LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE ACT:(H.3573, R.518,
Act 466)**

There is an increasing demand and need for alternative funding sources to cover the high cost of skilled, intermediate and custodial care for the frail elderly.

Increasingly, private insurance companies are offering policies to pay for these long-term care services. This legislation is intended to promote the public interest, promote availability of long-term care insurance, protect applicants from unfair and misleading sales and enrollment practices,

establish standards for policies, facilitate public understanding and comparison of policies, and facilitate flexibility and innovation in the development of long-term care coverage.

Status: After numerous public hearings, the House Labor, Commerce and Industry Committee adopted H.2573 as a committee bill. Renumbered as H.3573, the Long Term Care Insurance Act was shepherded through the House by subcommittee chair, Rep. John Bradley. The final version included such provisions as 1) guaranteed renewable 2) twelve month limit on pre-existing conditions 3) policy is not triggered by eligibility for Medicare benefits 4) coverage cannot be significantly more skilled than lower levels of care in an institution. After passage in the Senate, the bill was signed by the Governor April 19, 1988.

REPEAL OF MANDATORY RETIREMENT: (S.379)

Our Committee has been interested in retirement policies based on "competence not chronology" since 1977 when we held a joint public hearing with the U.S. House Select Committee on Aging. At that time Congressman Pepper said in his opening statement, "We're going to fight to abolish mandatory retirement - that insidious enemy of the elderly - that arbitrary policy that says: when you reach the magic age of 65 you no longer have anything to contribute to the economy of the country." We first introduced bills to repeal State retirement laws in 1985.

With the passage of amendments to the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (H.R.4154) on October 17, 1986, Congress outlawed mandatory retirement on the basis of age alone for public and private workers, exempting law enforcement officers, firefighters and tenured university professors for a seven-year transition period until 1993.

The Committee, working with the State Human Affairs Commission and the State Retirement System,

introduced legislation to repeal the mandatory retirement provision of S.C. law and conform it to the federal legislation.

Status: S.379 passed both houses and was enrolled for ratification when the Senate recalled the bill and amended it. The bill passed between the House and Senate several times, but an agreement could not be reached before the session end.

RETIREE BENEFIT ADJUSTMENT: [H. 2575 (included as a proviso in the 1988-89 Appropriation Bill)]

South Carolina's oldest state retirees were employed when salaries were comparatively low. Their current pensions are based on their base pay at retirement. Legislation was sought which would provide a means to alleviate the financial hardships of elderly retirees.

The Committee introduced legislation referred to as the "one-plus-one" plan in 1987, which adds to each retirees' base benefit pay \$1.00 per month for years of service plus \$1.00 per month for the years of retirement. This one-time increase does not affect cost-of-living benefit adjustments or earnings ceilings by law. Due to budgetary restraints, H.2575 provides adjustment only for those persons retiring prior to July 1, 1972.

Status: H.2575 passed the House and remained in the Senate following its introduction in 1987. However, the Committee and the S.C. Retired Educators Association submitted provisos to the House Ways and Means Committee that would provide funding for this retiree benefit increase. The Supplemental Appropriation Bill of one-time expenditures (H.3881) was incorporated into the General Appropriation Bill which passed the General Assembly. The bill includes a provision that divides \$1 million between the remaining state employees that retired prior to July 1, 1972. These retirees will also profit from the benefit increase due to changes in Retirement System calculations (see S.1178 under Related Legislation).

**LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE - STATE EMPLOYEES:
(S.1079, R.574, Act 509)**

Due to the projected need for long term care, the Committee determined that state employees and retired members should have the option of purchasing group coverage.

H.3624 and S.1079 were introduced as companion bills that would direct the S.C. Retirement System to develop an optional long term care insurance program that active and retired employees could purchase.

Status: S.1079 was ratified and signed by the Governor May 9, 1988.

**IN-HOME SUPPORT SERVICES FOR THE FRAIL ELDERLY:
(H.2032/ later amended to H.2187)**

South Carolina is experiencing rapid, significant growth in its elderly population. There are approximately 34,000 persons 65 and older who are chronically ill and are in need of services which would allow them to prevent or delay institutionalization. These individuals do not meet the income or level of care requirements for the Medicaid Community Long Term Care program. Services such as Case Management, Adult Care, Respite Care, Homemaker/Personal Care would be provided by the S.C. Commission on Aging through the local Councils on Aging on a sliding scale fee basis to the frail elderly. It will cost \$2.5 million to fund these services. The Committee introduced creative legislation to provide the needed revenue.

Status: H.2032 was tabled and the marriage license fee increase was amended to H.2187 which remained on the House Contested Calendar at the close of the session.

**STATE HOUSING AUTHORITY: HOME EQUITY CONVERSION:
(H.3408, R.661, Act 575)**

Following testimony from the S.C. Commission on Aging relating to home equity conversion in other states and the benefits of providing cash assets for elderly to use for long term care insurance and other living expenses, the Committee introduced legislation that would provide the State Housing Authority the power to develop this type of assistance for persons 65 and over who are within the beneficiary classes.

Status: H.3408 and S.970 were introduced which gave broad power to develop assistance. Both bills were later amended to specify home equity conversion and to provide that monies received would not affect Medicaid eligibility. The House and Senate passed H.3408 which was signed by the Governor on May 29, 1988.

CONTINUING CARE COMMUNITIES: (H.3694/ S.1276)

During 1986, Senator Leatherman conducted public hearings concerning long term care. These hearings led to the introduction and passage in 1987 of S.252(R.233) which directed the S.C. Department of Consumer Affairs, the S.C. Insurance Department and the S.C. Commission on Aging to conduct an extensive study of continuing care communities.

As an outcome of this study, H.3694 was introduced to provide for licensing, regulation and inspection of continuing care retirement communities.

The similar Senate bill, S.1276, introduced by Senator Leatherman along with Senators Doar, Lourie, and McLeod, contains additional restrictions and safeguards not included in the House version.

Status: The House Medical, Public, and Municipal Affairs Committee decided to adjourn debate and

study H.3694 during the interim.

S.1276 remained in the Senate Medical Affairs Committee.

RELATED LEGISLATION:

**RETIREMENT SYSTEM CALCULATIONS: (S.1178, R.528,
Act 475)**

At present, state employees contribute 4% of the first \$4800 to the retirement system and 6% of the remaining earnings. This bill would require employees to contribute 6% of all earnings to the retirement system thus enabling retirement benefits to be raised by approximately 10%.

Status: S.1178 passed both houses and was signed by the Governor on May 2, 1988.

**IMMEDIATE FAMILY SICK LEAVE: (S.988, R.592,
Act 524)**

This bill redefines the definition of immediate family to include the mother, father, and spouse's mother and father. Grandchildren are also included if the worker is the child's guardian and primary caretaker. S.988 was also amended to include the State Employee Leave Transfer Program.

Status: S.988 passed both houses and received the Governor's signature on May 18, 1988.

**DEATH WITH DIGNITY AMENDMENTS: (H.4108, R.673,
Act 586)**

After passage of the Death with Dignity Act in 1986, a task force of the S.C. Bar in cooperation with the S.C. Hospital Association and the S.C. Medical Association conducted a study of the Act and determined that technical corrections were needed to clarify the law.

Status: H.4108, introduced by Rep. James Hodges from Lancaster, passed both houses and was signed by the Governor on May 29, 1988.

COMMITTEE INTEREST:

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION FOR THE ELDERLY: (S.C. Code of Laws 12-27-1300, Editor's Note - Section 4 of Act No. 197, 1987)

In 1987 the General Assembly passed legislation that added a three-cent tax increase to motor fuel and established the Select Oversight Committee to determine allocation of additional revenues.

The Committee on Aging submitted a resolution to the Select Oversight Committee requesting that the percentage of public transportation funds available under statute be allocated to elderly transportation.

The Committee allocated \$1,146,226 for capital equipment for elderly and handicapped transportation needs. This one-time allocation must be distributed regionally by applications before June 30, 1988.

OTHER BILLS MONITORED IN LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

COMMITTEE LEGISLATION NOT PASSED:

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION (H.2026, S.130)

Increase to \$30,000

RELATED LEGISLATION PASSED:

CIVIL LIABILITY IMMUNITY-HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS (H.3381, R.495, Act 477)

To provide immunity from civil liability for health care providers when providing free and voluntary medical services and deletes requirement that services be provided at hospitals or specified locations

COMMUNITY LONG TERM CARE (H.3696, R.610, Act ___)
To delete proviso for \$1 million for nursing home beds and provide funds must be used for CLTC, 1987-88.

MEDICAID RETIREE BENEFITS (Appropriation Bill, Budget and Control Board, Proviso, Part I, 16.78)
Retirees and beneficiaries under the State Retirement Systems receiving Medicaid sponsored nursing home care as of June 30, 1988 shall receive no increase in retirement benefits during FY 1988-89. A retiree may receive the scheduled increase if he is discharged from the nursing home and not admitted to a hospital or other nursing home within six months.

STATE BOARD OF DENTISTRY (S.315, R.483, Act 439)
Extend services of Dental Hygienists to institutions

STATE HOSPITAL CONSTRUCTION ACT AMENDMENTS
(H.2539, R. ___, Act ___)
Provides a state medical facilities plan and the consolidation of licensing requirements for facilities such as adult day care facilities

RELATED LEGISLATION NOT PASSED:

CONDOMINIUMS (H.3663)
Directs administrators to obtain unit owners' approval before adopting policies

DRIVER'S LICENSE (H.2936)
To require persons 65 and over to demonstrate driving efficiency when renewing a driver's license

DRG PAYMENT SCHEME (H.329)
Memorializes Congress to refrain from enacting any physician diagnosis related payment scheme under Medicare and to adopt House Concurrent Resolution 30 and Senate 15 which oppose DRG's for doctors and the mandated assignment under Medicare

ESTATE TAX (H.3319, S.915)

To provide for the payment of estate tax with a contribution of cultural property to a state agency.

HEALTH INSURANCE POOL (S.499)

Creates a Health Insurance Pool to include all insurers providing health insurance and insurance arrangements for health plan benefits. Provides eligibility for persons refused insurance because of certain conditions.

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION (H.3773, S.926, S.1137)

To increase the exemption to the first thirty thousand dollars beginning with the 1988 tax year

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION (H.3490)

To provide any person who meets the qualifications for a homestead exemption but owns his dwelling place together with at least one other person, not his spouse, is entitled to a homestead exemption in a certain percentage.

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION (H.3676)

To increase from \$20,000 to \$25,000

HOSPITAL COMMISSION (H.2315)

Creates the S.C. Hospital Commission, to provide its duties and responsibilities, and provide penalties for violations.

HOUSING (H.2986, S.653)

To provide that beneficiaries of the S.C. State Housing Authority Act include elderly persons and families and handicapped persons

INDIVIDUAL MEDICAL ACCOUNT ACT (S.343)

Provides for the Individual Medical Account Act whose purpose is to pay medical, dental, and long-term care expenses.

INSURANCE CONTINUATION (H.3335)

To provide special insurance continuation for retired employees, 55 years or over, participating in group plans.

LICENSING OF DIETICIANS AND NUTRITIONISTS (H.3242)

To provide for licensing of dietitians and nutritionists by DHEC, establish Advisory Board of Dietetics and Nutrition, provide for Board's membership, functions, and duties

LOTTERY (S.196)

Proceeds to pay for medical care for indigent persons and remaining provisions to be used for educational purposes

LOTTERY (S.865)

Fifteen percent of the proceeds to be used to aid the elderly, blind, and other physically handicapped persons

MANDATORY MEDICARE ASSIGNMENT (H.3288)

Requires licensed physicians to accept Medicare as payment in full in order to obtain reregistration certificates.

MEDICAID (S.254)

To direct the Health and Human Services Finance Commission to implement changes in the Medicaid Program, to establish a sufficient personal needs allowance, including spousal impoverishment to prevent discrimination against Medicaid patients, and to study other changes.

MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY (H.3650)

Expands Medicaid eligibility for aged and disabled persons consistent with federal poverty guidelines

MOBILE HOME OWNER (S.155)

Revises definition of dwelling unit under the Landlord/Tenant Act to include real property that is leased to the owner of a mobile home to locate home on property.

PATIENT CARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (H.2094)

To require each hospital to establish patient care advisory committees.

PHYSICALLY DISABLED ACCOMMODATIONS (H.3382)

Adds schools, colleges and universities to the rights of blind and other physically disabled persons to use public facilities and accommodations

PROBATE CODE (H. 3634)

To clarify provisions regarding minors and incapacitated persons, their conservators and the jurisdiction of the courts.

PRT SURVEY (S.120)

Directs PRT to survey its facilities to determine their accessibility to the handicapped and elderly

SALES TAX EXEMPTIONS - DURABLE MEDICAL EQUIPMENT (H.3491)

Exempts the gross proceeds of the sale of durable medical equipment from sales tax when purchased for individual use.

SALES TAX EXEMPTIONS - HEARING AID CORDS AND BATTERIES (H.3457)

To provide that batteries and cords for hearing aids as well as the hearing aids are exempt from the sales tax.

STATE HOUSING AUTHORITY (H.3704)

To authorize State Housing Authority to provide housing assistance to any person without regard to income over 55 or incapable. Change name to Housing Development and Finance Authority.

TRUCK REGISTRATION (H.2011)

To establish an annual registration and license fee of \$10 for persons 65 or older for one personal truck.

UNIFORMED SERVICES - INCOME TAX DEDUCTION (H.3639)

Increases income tax deduction from \$3000 to \$5000 for eligible persons.

1988-1989 APPROPRIATION BILL

AS PASSED

<u>AGENCY</u>	<u>1987-88 APPROPRIATED</u>		<u>1988-89 APPROPRIATED</u>	
	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>STATE</u>
<u>JOINT LEGIS. COMMITTEE ON AGING</u>				
<u>(Section 3K15)</u>				
TOTAL AGENCY APPROPRIATION	66,529	66,529	78,874	78,874
 <u>HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE</u>				
<u>COMMISSION (Section 40)</u>				
Assistance Payments - SHHSFC				
Swing Beds	586,320		830,540	222,750
Nursing Home Provider	96,072,245	25,083,826	103,528,048	27,766,781
Total Community Long Term Care	9,496,747	2,536,581	22,128,193	5,934,781
 <u>DEPT. OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL (Section 41)</u>				
Total Community Long Term Care				
- Special	440,268	440,268	440,268	440,268
Total Community Long Term Care				
- General	7,005,377		7,093,976	
 <u>DEPT. OF SOCIAL SERVICES (Section 45)</u>				
General Assistance - Elderly, Blind and Disabled				
	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
General Assistance - Resid. Care Facilities				
	<u>5,128,421</u>	<u>5,128,421</u>	<u>5,628,421</u>	<u>5,528,421</u>
Total General Assistance	5,228,421	5,228,421	5,628,421	5,628,421
Total Public Assist. Payments - Adult Protective Services				
	14,516	14,516	14,516	14,516
 <u>S.C. COMMISSION ON AGING (Section 50)</u>				
Special Item - In-Home Services - Elderly				
	250,000	250,000	1,250,000	250,000
Total Distribution to Subdivisions	10,461,742	835,807	11,168,408	835,807
 <u>AID TO SUBDIVISIONS (Section 125)</u>				
County Homestead Exemption Reimbursements				
	20,584,930	20,584,930	22,261,630	22,261,630
Municipal Homestead Exemption Reimbursements				
	<u>4,822,770</u>	<u>4,822,770</u>	<u>5,216,070</u>	<u>5,216,070</u>
Total Homestead Exemption Reimbursements	<u>25,407,700</u>	<u>25,407,700</u>	<u>27,477,700</u>	<u>27,477,700</u>

VII. SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION ON AGING

In 1971 the General Assembly designated the South Carolina Commission on Aging as the State governmental agency to administer the Older Americans Act.

Harry R. Bryan served as Director of the S.C. Interagency Council on Aging from its beginning in September, 1966 and as Executive Director of the SC. Commission on Aging from its inception in 1971 until his retirement on June 30, 1986.

The Commission on Aging appointed Ruth Q. Seigler as its Executive Director in August, 1986. Under Mrs. Seigler's leadership a Strategic Planning Process has been initiated through which the following Mission Statement was developed and adopted by the Commission:

"The South Carolina Commission on Aging's mission is to enhance the quality of life of older South Carolinians. The Commission is the statewide leader for advocating, planning and developing resources to meet the present and future needs of older persons; and for developing and coordinating a comprehensive service delivery system. Further, the Commission promotes education, research, and training in the field of gerontology."

The Commission has identified a number of priorities for future activities which include a major emphasis and commitment to long range planning and advocacy for the needs of older South Carolinians and to enhancing its relationship with the General Assembly and other State Agencies to insure effective coordination and cooperation on behalf of older South Carolinians.

The Commission is made up of one member-at-large appointed by the Governor and six members, one from each Congressional District appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate, to serve for four year terms; one Representative appointed by the Speaker of the House and one Senator appointed by the President of the Senate serving ex-officio.

Commission Members:

- 4th District - Dr. C.M. Johnson, Chairman (1988)
Spartanburg
- 1st District - David S. Spell (1989) Charleston
- 2nd District - Joseph C. Strickland (1988) Columbia
- 3rd District - Thomas I. Dowling (1988) Greenwood
- 3rd District - Jack H. Keel (1988) Barnwell
- 4th District - Elizabeth Gower (1989) Greenville
- 5th District - Helen D. Brawley (1991) Rock Hill
- 6th District - Dr. Suzanne Black (1990) Dillon

Ex-officio Members:

- The Honorable Isadore Lourie, Columbia
- The Honorable Patrick B. Harris, Anderson

New Address:

**S.C. Commission on Aging
400 Arbor Lake Drive
Suite B-500
Columbia, SC 29223
(803) 735-0210**

VIII. ACTIVITIES

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE AND BILL SUMMARIES

The status of legislation introduced by the Committee and other selected legislation related to aging interests is summarized periodically during the session. This publication entitled "Legislative Update" is very popular among legislators, the aging network organizations and interested individuals. Copies are distributed upon request.

The Committee also distributes a pamphlet that gives a brief history of the Committee and includes a list of the members and aging organizations.

SENIOR CITIZENS' DAY WITH THE LEGISLATURE

This year the S.C. Federation of Older Americans, the S.C. Gerontological Society, the S.C. Retired Educators, the American Association of Retired Persons, the S.C. Commission on Aging, the S.C.

National Association of Social Workers, the Veterans Administration, the American Legion, the National Association of Retired Federal Employees and the Council on Elder Affairs sponsored Senior Citizens' Day with the Legislature on March 2, 1988. The Committee staff assisted in the planning of the day long event held at the Town House Hotel.

The morning format included a keynote speech on legislative advocacy by Dr. Leonard G. Hirsh, ACSW President, Institute for Strategic Management in Washington, D.C., followed by four concurrent workshops entitled a) "Long Term Care Issues" b) "Lobbying Primer" c) "Silver Haired Congress, 1989" d) "LTC Issues Fact Sheet and Resolution".

The afternoon began with a luncheon address by The Honorable John D. Bradley, House of Representatives, entitled "LTC Insurance: How a Bill Becomes a Law."

At this time the sponsors of the event presented Senator Isadore Lourie with a plaque in recognition and appreciation for his outstanding legislative advocacy on behalf of older South Carolinians.

Following the luncheon address, participants had a choice of observing the General Assembly, touring the State House or enjoying a film festival. The day concluded with a reception for the legislators at the Town House.

1988 OUTSTANDING OLDER SOUTH CAROLINIAN

This year's Outstanding Older South Carolinian award was presented to Representative Patrick B. Harris, Chair of the Joint Legislative Committee on Aging, at the annual Aging Network Conference, May 13, 1988, in Greenville. Sponsored by the S.C. Commission on Aging, this award is given annually to those persons sixty-five or older who have shown distinguished and continuing service in the aging field.

LEGISLATIVE INTERN PROGRAM

The College of Social Work at the University of South Carolina assigned Donna P. Smith, a candidate for a master's degree in social work, as legislative intern for the Joint Legislative Committee on Aging for the 1987-88 academic year. This is the second year the Committee has provided a graduate field placement in social work.

As legislative intern, Ms. Smith represented the Committee on the Senior Action Center Coalition, established to organize support for the construction of a central senior center in Columbia. Ms. Smith also served on the Models Task Force of the Long Term Care Council, charged with the responsibility of proposing a comprehensive long term care delivery system for South Carolina.

A major product of Ms. Smith's internship with the Committee was a grant written in cooperation with the South Carolina Commission on Aging which, if funded by the Administration on Aging, would establish a central housing referral center for older citizens and their families in South Carolina.

COMMITTEE AND STAFF LIAISON ACTIVITIES

Members of the Committee and/or staff worked cooperatively throughout the year with the Commission on Aging, Tax Commission, Comptroller General's Office, Health and Human Services Finance Commission, Human Affairs Commission, State Retirement System, Department of Social Services, Department of Health and Environmental Control, State Library, and State Reorganization Commission.

Chairman Patrick B. Harris represents the Committee on the Long Term Care Policy Council, the Health Care Planning and Oversight Committee and the Human Services Integration Project. Chairman Harris and Senator Isadore Lourie serve as ex-officio members of the S.C. Commission on Aging.

Keller Barron, Director of Research serves on the Advisory Board of the S.C. Gerontology Center, the S.C. Mental Health Department Task Force on Services

to the Elderly, and the Program Design and Evaluation Task Force of the Alzheimer's Disease Continuum of Care Project of Central Midlands Regional Planning Council. She also serves on the Handicapped Afloat and Afield Committee with the S.C. Wildlife and Marine Resources Department, and the Task Force on Long Term Care of the S.C. Medical Association.

Sherri Craft, Research Assistant, served on the Senior Citizens' Day with the Legislature Planning Committee and continues to serve on the Mental Retardation Code Revision Task Force.

Committee members and/or staff regularly attend sessions of the following organizations interested in aging: American Association of Retired Persons, S.C. Federation of Older Americans, the S.C. Gerontological Society, Advisory Council on Elder Affairs, and the S.C. Hospital Association.

Regular contact is maintained with committees and agencies of other states as well as with the Senate Special Committee on Aging and the House Select Committee on Aging of the U.S. Congress, on which Third District Congressman Butler Derrick and Second District Congressman Floyd Spence serve.

Public presentations are made frequently by the Committee and staff to large and small community and church groups, conferences, workshops, and continuing education programs for hospitals and nursing homes.

Information about numerous aging issues and legislative action are distributed upon request to members and staff of the S.C. Legislature and other state legislatures, state agency personnel, national and state organizations and interested citizens.

PUBLICATIONS

The following publications are available from the Committee office and distributed upon request:

1. Annual Reports 1970-1988.
2. "Declaration of a Desire for a Natural Death" Form and Act, Effective March 6, 1986.

3. Joint Legislative Committee on Aging,
pamphlet (includes aging organizations),
revised 1988.
4. Standing Committees of the S.C. General
Assembly, 1988.
5. Summary of Aging Legislation Enacted Through
1988, 1988.
6. Rights of Older Adults, 1988.
7. Directory of Retirement and Life Care
Communities in S.C. March 1987.
8. S.C. Senior Citizens Handbook, A Guide to Laws
and Programs Affecting Senior Citizens, S.C.
Bar, May 1985.
9. South Carolina Mature Lifestyles, S.C.
Retirement Association, 1987.
10. A Study of Alzheimer's Disease in S.C.,
December 1986.
11. "A History of the S.C. Commission on Aging,
1966-1986", 1986.
12. "Homestead Tax Exemption Program," 1988.
13. "No Easy Choices: Options for Your Older
Parents", April 1986.

IX. GERONTOLOGICAL RESEARCH

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF AGING

In December 1987, the South Carolina Commission on Higher Education approved the establishment of a Center for the Study of Aging at the Medical University of South Carolina. Dr. W. Allen Smith serves as Executive Director for the Center whose purpose is to encourage the growth and development of gerontological teaching, research and patient care (geriatrics) in each of the Colleges of the University and to contribute to the fund of knowledge in geriatrics as it is practiced in the state. The Center also works with the local Area Agency on Aging on various issues. Their most notable success has been in adding the study of aging into the county public school system curriculum.

S.C. GERONTOLOGY CENTER

Established in February 1985, the S.C. Gerontology Center is a consortium of Clemson University, The Medical University of South Carolina, South Carolina State College, Lander College, Winthrop College, and the University of South Carolina. In addition to serving the consortium members the Center is ready to serve state agencies and the general public in providing information on research and instruction in gerontology.

After sharing their operational costs from February 1, 1985 to June 30, 1986, the consortium appealed to the General Assembly for funding. The Center received \$25,000 for fiscal year 1986/1987 and again for fiscal year 1987/1988. The Joint Legislative Committee on Aging suggested that the Center seek funding through the University's budget and requested a study of gerontological research funding at other state-supported institutions.

Following the request, the Center conducted a study of 42 gerontology centers at state supported institutions. Of the 37 responses with usable budgetary data, centers had a median state budget of \$121,616. Compared to a previous study by the Center in 1985 which found the median to be \$70,535, this increase revealed that state support for gerontology centers is growing, as could be expected from the growth of our older population and the need for research.

X. FEDERAL ISSUES

"BLACK WIDOWS"

Sue Summer, Director of the S.C. Commission on Women, alerted the Joint Legislative Committee on Aging of a gap in our medical services delivery system. Representative Blackwell requested that the Committee include this dilemma in the Annual Report.

An Orangeburg woman was left with no medical coverage when her Supplementary Security Income check and therefore her Medicaid coverage ended when she became eligible for Social Security widows benefits at age 60. She was required by law to apply for all other eligible benefits or be in jeopardy of losing the SSI payments. If the claimant's widows benefit had been based on disability, she could have been entitled to Medicare coverage after drawing disability benefits for two years. As it is, she will not be eligible for Medicare coverage until age 65. This dilemma leaves the woman without coverage from age 60 until age 65.

CATASTROPHIC HEALTH BILL

During the Annual Public Hearing, attention was given to federal legislation that addresses the long term care issue. The Committee determined to send a letter to Senator Strom Thurmond, urging passage of the Catastrophic Health bill while retaining provisions that included 1)prescription drug benefits 2)spousal impoverishment protection and 3) an increase in the personal needs allowance.

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