



MISSOURI HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WITNESS APPEARANCE FORM

BILL NUMBER: HB 3143		DATE: 4/8/2026
COMMITTEE: Local Government		
TESTIFYING: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN SUPPORT OF <input type="checkbox"/> IN OPPOSITION TO <input type="checkbox"/> FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES		
WITNESS NAME		
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:		
WITNESS NAME: ANNA THOMAS		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI COUNCIL ON AGING		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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CITY: SAINT CHARLES		STATE: MO
		ZIP: 63301
EMAIL: anna@missouricouncilonaging.org	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 4/3/2026 8:38 AM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

Hello Committee members, Chairwoman McGaugh, and Vice Chair West. Thank you for allowing me to speak in support of HB 3143. I am Anna Thomas, Executive Director of the Missouri Council on Aging. Our mission is ensuring that Missouri is a place for all to age well. We serve to connect organizations, advocates, and community leaders across Missouri to strengthen services for older adults. Through collaboration, education, and policy work, we help ensure older Missourians have the resources and opportunities they need to thrive. We come together to strengthen support for older adults and adults with disabilities in Missouri. I echo the testimony of Ms. Opsal. Missouri has moved beyond the critical phase of ensuring support services are in place for older adults and has entered the imperative of resourcing those supports at a level commensurate with the scale of need before us. Thank you.



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WITNESS NAME		
REGISTERED LOBBYIST:		
WITNESS NAME: COLE ARREOLA-KARR		PHONE NUMBER:
REPRESENTING: MISSOURI SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION		TITLE: MANAGING DIRECTOR
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EMAIL: director@mospecialdistricts.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/7/2026 5:52 PM

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

The Missouri Special Districts Association (MoSDA) supports HB 3134 (Parker), which would allow senior citizen services funds to glean sales tax upon approval of local voters. MoSDA views this bill as an initiative to modernize how the state's special purpose government functions are funded. Currently, Missouri's senior citizen services boards are among more than 20 statutes authorizing local services but restricting local revenue sources to property taxes. MoSDA supports the bill for its effort to diversify the local funding mix for local services.



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WITNESS NAME		
INDIVIDUAL:		
WITNESS NAME: JAMIE OPSAL		PHONE NUMBER:
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:
ADDRESS:		
CITY:		STATE: ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/7/2026 4:26 PM
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I am in support of this bill as it would allow for more communities to access local funding for senior citizens.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: JULIE PEETZ		PHONE NUMBER: 314-620-4585	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: MISSOURI ASSOCIATION OF AREA AGENCIES ON AGING		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
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EMAIL: jpeetz@ma4web.org	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/7/2026 9:12 AM	

THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

As the Executive Director of the Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging (ma4), I am testifying in strong support of this legislation. At its heart, this bill is about local control and the fundamental right of Missourians to decide how to care for the people who built our towns and neighborhoods.

This is not an untested concept. Currently, more than half of Missouri’s counties have already successfully implemented a local senior levy. In those communities, this model has proven to be a gold standard for accountability and impact. We have seen firsthand that when residents are given the power to invest in their own neighbors, the results are transformative. This legislation simply extends that same opportunity to more communities, allowing them to choose a funding structure that works for their unique local economy.

It is important to clarify: this law does not impose a tax. Instead, it empowers local voters to make a choice. It allows a community to say, "We value our older adults, and we want to ensure they can stay in their homes safely and with dignity."

Missouri is a diverse state. The needs of a rural township are not the same as those in a suburban center. This measure respects those differences by keeping the decision-making—and every dollar of the funding—entirely local.

For an older adult, the ability to remain at home often comes down to two simple, life-sustaining questions: Can I get a hot meal? and Can I get to the doctor?

- **Reliable Transportation:** Many of our older residents no longer drive. Without local transit, a missed pharmacy trip or a doctor’s appointment can quickly escalate into a costly emergency room visit. Local funding ensures a van and a driver are available to keep residents connected to their healthcare and their community.
- **Nutritional Security:** A home-delivered meal is often the only nutritious food an older adult receives in a day. Perhaps more importantly, that delivery serves as a daily wellness check. It is a local volunteer or staff member laying eyes on a neighbor to ensure they are safe and sound.

By authorizing this local option, you are giving residents the chance to create their own resources. Locally supported funding guarantees to taxpayers that their dollars aren’t disappearing into a distant general fund. Instead, those cents are being transformed into a ride to the grocery store for the veteran down the street or a warm meal for the retired teacher next door.

We believe that local communities know their people best. We urge you to move this legislation forward to give Missourians the tools they need to support their older adults right where they live.

We aren't asking the state to solve every problem; we are asking the state to give local communities the tools to solve their own.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: ARNIE C. AC "HONEST-ABE" DIENOFF		PHONE NUMBER: 314-440-9000	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: STATE PUBLIC ADVOCACY		TITLE: STATE PUBLIC ADVOCATE	
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CITY: O' FALLON		STATE: MO	ZIP: 63366
EMAIL: ArnieDienoff@Mail.Com	ATTENDANCE: In-Person	SUBMIT DATE: 4/8/2026 11:53 PM	
THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.			
I am Opposed to New Taxes!			



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WITNESS NAME			
INDIVIDUAL:			
WITNESS NAME: SARAH BERRY		PHONE NUMBER:	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME:		TITLE:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE:	ZIP:
EMAIL:	ATTENDANCE: Written	SUBMIT DATE: 4/8/2026 7:05 AM	
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This bill, unlike others before you, is broader in its application.

It authorizes any county to seek voter approval for a sales tax dedicated to senior services. That uniformity is noted.

But the concern is not whether senior services deserve funding—they do.

The concern is how this bill structures power, control, and accountability around that funding.

First, the bill places full control of the revenue into a seven-member commission appointed entirely by the county governing body, with no statutory guardrails on qualifications, independence, or conflict protections. That is not neutral administration.

That is centralized appointment authority over a dedicated public revenue stream.

Second, the language allows funds to be used for “any service or activity deemed necessary” by that commission. That is an extremely broad standard. Without clearer statutory boundaries, the scope of spending is defined not by law, but by discretion.

Third, while the bill requires voter approval to impose the tax, once enacted, the structure creates a system where:
the governing body appoints the commission,
the commission defines the use of funds, and
there is no clearly defined, enforceable oversight mechanism beyond general transparency expectations.

That is a concentration of authority over both funding and decision-making.

Additionally, the fiscal note reflects unknown revenue generation and administrative costs, including state-level collection fees and system updates. This reinforces that the financial impact is not fully predictable at the time of passage.

So I am placing this clearly on the record:
When public funds are generated through voter approval but administered through appointed bodies with broad discretionary authority and limited statutory constraints, it creates a structural risk of

reduced accountability over time.

**And when that structure appears alongside other legislation this session that:
concentrates decision-making authority,
expands control over funding streams, and
limits clear enforcement mechanisms,
it reflects a broader legislative pattern that shifts governance away from direct accountability and
toward centralized control structures.**

Senior services deserve strong, transparent, and accountable funding frameworks.

This bill leaves too much to discretion and not enough to defined safeguards.

For those reasons, I stand in opposition.



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WITNESS NAME			
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION:			
WITNESS NAME: TINA URIDGE		PHONE NUMBER: 816-455-4800	
BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION NAME: CLAY COUNTY SENIOR SERVICES BOARD		TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	
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THE INFORMATION ON THIS FORM IS PUBLIC RECORD UNDER CHAPTER 610, RSMo.

On behalf of Clay County Senior Services Board/Fund, we support the need for local funding options for counties that choose a sales tax dedicated to senior services rather than a property tax (we have a property tax senior levy) and each county having the option to take either to voters is crucial to supporting Missouri seniors. There is a growing senior population and support services such as home delivered meals, transportation, senior centers are under-funded-especially in rural Missouri. 3 counties currently have a sales tax senior fund, and the opportunity for all counties across Missouri to enact a dedicated funding source is greatly needed. Seniors want to age in place in their own communities, and this legislation is good for Missouri counties.