



# **North Carolina Senior Tar Heel Legislature**

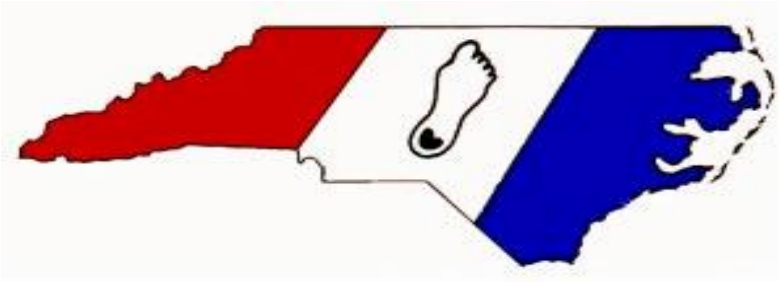
J. Dwight Cartner, Speaker

December 13, 2017



# North Carolina Senior Tar Heel Legislature

- In 1993 the North Carolina General Assembly passed Senate Bill 479, establishing the North Carolina Senior Tar Heel Legislature (NC STHL).
- There is one Delegate and one Alternate to the NC STHL from each of the 100 counties in the state. Delegates and Alternates must be age 60 or older.



# North Carolina Senior Tar Heel Legislature

The Senior Tar Heel Legislature was created to:

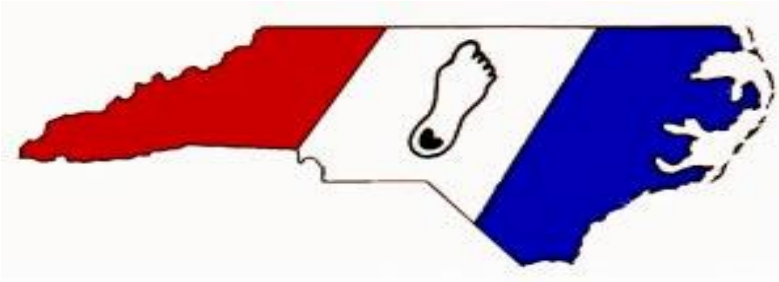
- Provide information to senior citizens on the legislative process and matters being considered by the North Carolina General Assembly.
- Promote citizen involvement and advocacy concerning aging issues before the North Carolina General Assembly.
- Assess the legislative needs of older citizens by convening a forum modeled after the North Carolina General Assembly.



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STHL Delegates and Alternates meet three times a year in the Raleigh area to hear educational presentations on topics such as:

- Updates from the Division of Aging and Adult Services
- The current Opioid crisis
- Project CARE (Caregivers Alternatives to Running on Empty)
- Current Scams and Fraud targeting older adults
- Health Care issues and concerns



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Delegates and Alternates are assigned to meet in issue committees.  
The six standing issues committees are:

- Crime, Safety, Security
- Enrichment Opportunities
- General Legislation
- Health/Wellness/Prevention/Quality of Life
- Long Term Care
- Service Access

Committees recommend issues to be considered for adoption among the 5 legislative priorities for which STHLs will advocate.



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## 2017 Legislative Priorities

- Increase Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG) Funding by \$7million in recurring funds
- Increase funding for Senior Centers by \$300,000 in recurring funds
- Sustain and expand Project CARE
- Strengthen and fund NC's Adult Protective Services Program. Asking for \$5million in recurring funds.
- Reestablish the Study Commission on Aging



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## Successes

- Some STHL priorities have become law
- Helping older adults become better advocates for themselves

## Challenges

- Seniors going into nursing homes because HCCBG services were not available to help keep them independent
- Declining volunteerism
- Adequate Affordable Housing (availability and modifications)
- Finding ways to integrate health care and aging services in order to treat the whole person

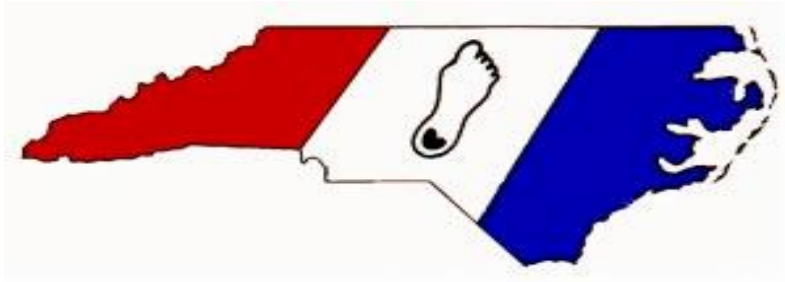


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## Recommendations

- Invest more funding in HCCBG services that cost far less than hospital and institutional care and allow people to remain in their homes where they want to be
- Increase funding for Senior Centers
- Support Family Caregivers
- Increase support for North Carolina's Adult Protective Services program that protects the most vulnerable older adults
- Support initiatives that make NC more livable for older adults





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