



## MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

Delbert Scott  
28<sup>th</sup> Senate District

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**A Weekly Column for the  
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# Helping Elderly Missourians Get to the Doctor

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JEFFERSON CITY – In rural areas of Missouri, like much of the 28<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District, elderly Missourians often have difficulty getting to their doctors for scheduled appointments. Some do not have cars, while others can no longer drive. Often, elderly Missourians have to rely on friends and neighbors to drive them to the doctor.

Senate Bill 1063 recognizes the importance of having timely access to health care providers. The bill would allow each area agency on aging to establish a program that provides volunteers to drive elderly Missourians to health care facilities. These volunteers would use their own vehicles but would be reimbursed for mileage. The area agency on aging would pay each volunteer a mileage allowance or reimbursement at the same rate as state employees receive. Volunteer drivers would submit a monthly report to the agency that includes information about the services provided, the dates of those services, and the miles driven.

The agency may encourage passengers participating in the program to reimburse the agency for all or part of the costs of providing transportation.

Each area agency on aging can request funding of up to \$1,000 annually from the Department of Health and Senior Services to assist with the costs of providing transportation, subject to appropriation.

Elderly Missourians who live in our urban centers can often utilize public transportation to get to their doctors, but public transportation is rarely an option in rural areas of the state. By helping those who help others get their local doctor's office, we can help ensure more Missourians have access to healthcare services in a timely fashion.

If you have questions or comments about this or any other issue, please feel free to contact me at 573-751-8793 or by e-mail at: [delbertscott@senate.state.mo.us](mailto:delbertscott@senate.state.mo.us)

*Senator Delbert Scott represents the people of Barton, Benton, Cedar, Dallas, Henry, Hickory, Pettis, Polk and St. Clair counties in the Missouri Senate.*