



MISSOURI SENATE

JEFFERSON CITY

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**A Weekly Column for the
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Senior Transportation

JEFFERSON CITY – During the previous legislative session, I sponsored a bill addressing one of the most important issues for senior citizens – transportation. As we grow older, many of us lose the ability to drive safely and are forced to give up a measure of our independence.

With that in mind, I sponsored Senate Bill 1063 in the 2006 session. The measure would authorize each area agency on aging to establish a program using volunteers to provide transportation services for elderly persons to health care facilities for scheduled appointments or for other health care-related purposes.

Under the program, volunteers would use their own vehicles and would be reimbursed by the agency for the miles driven in providing these transportation services. The agency also could encourage passengers to reimburse the agency for all or part of the cost of providing such services. Each area agency on aging could request state funding of up to \$1,000 annually per county for each county within the agency's jurisdiction to help with the cost of administering the program.

The program is not intended to interfere with or replace services provided by organizations such as OATS, since it will be limited to trips for medical appointments.

SB 1063 was approved by the Senate Aging, Families, Mental & Public Health Committee and sent to the full Senate for consideration, but time ran out in the session before the measure could be debated.

I will be reintroducing this bill in the upcoming legislative session. It is my sincere hope that we will be able to pass this important piece of legislation.

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.mo.gov.

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