

STRUCTURE

The Silver Haired Legislature (SHL) is patterned after the West Virginia Legislature and follows, to the extent possible, the rules that govern its proceedings. The SHL is supported by involvement of the Clerks' Offices of the State Senate and House of Delegates by authorization of a concurrent resolution of the West Virginia Legislature. This ensures that the session is conducted as closely as possible to that of the state's official legislative body.



West Virginia Senate Chamber



West Virginia House Chamber

- The rules of the SHL are developed by the West Virginia Bureau of Senior Services in conjunction with the SHL Joint Rules Committee.
- The Joint Rules Committee is comprised of officers and committee chairpersons elected by the SHL membership.
- The rules of the SHL are set forth in the *West Virginia Silver Haired Rulebook*.

For more than twenty-five years, the West Virginia Silver Haired Legislature has been both an advocacy leader in the state and a model for the nation.

The Silver Haired Legislature is sponsored by the West Virginia Bureau of Senior Services.

State Capitol
Charleston, WV 25305
304-558-3317
877-987-3646, toll-free
304-558-0004, fax
www.wvseniorservices.gov
info@wvseniorservices.gov

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WEST VIRGINIA SILVER HAISED LEGISLATURE

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SENIORS IN ACTION

WEST VIRGINIA SILVER HAired LEGISLATURE

PURPOSE

- To provide an opportunity for older West Virginians to reinforce their knowledge of the legislative process.
- To identify common problems—not just those of senior citizens, but all West Virginians—and to propose realistic, feasible solutions to those problems in the form of position papers and resolutions.



State Capitol Rotunda

COMPOSITION

The Silver Haired Legislature is composed of 134 representatives, all 60 years of age or older, who are elected every two years from throughout the state by their peers. There is a representative in the SHL from each of the state's 55 counties.

COORDINATION

The Silver Haired Legislature is organized and coordinated by the West Virginia Bureau of Senior Services. Regional coordination is provided by the state's four area of aging. Each area agency designates a regional coordinator who is the key person for all SHL activities in the region, including the regional training caucuses.

THE TWO-YEAR SESSION

FIRST-YEAR SESSION

The first year of the two-year SHL term is known as the Interim Session. The Interim Session concentrates on the protocol and parliamentary procedure used in the legislative process. Additionally, training is held on the writing of position papers and resolutions. The Interim Session includes expert testimony on position paper topics, officer elections, and officer training.

SECOND-YEAR SESSION

The second year of the two-year SHL term is known as the Regular Session. During the Regular Session, the position papers and resolutions that have been developed over the intervening year at the regional training caucuses are introduced, studied, debated, and acted upon.

- SHL CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS**
- *Must be at least 60 years of age by the date of the candidate filing deadline.*
 - *Must be registered to vote in West Virginia.*
 - *Must reside in the region in which he or she wishes to run.*