



SENIOR NEWS

This legislative session laws were passed that will help our senior citizens and their families. If you would like a copy of any items in this mailer please feel free to call my office. Remember also that we are here to help when you have questions or concerns with a state agency application or if you would like more information on a particular program.

Joe

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ACCESSIBILITY OF STATE BUILDINGS

In an effort to continue the state's initiative of streamlining services for the rapidly aging population and assess the state's compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this law requires the Department of Administrative Services to provide a progress report on accessibility into and within our state buildings. It also ensures that our seniors have access to our state buildings that provide them essential services.

TRANSFER OF ASSETS - GIFTS

Medicaid imposed a penalty when an inappropriate transfer of assets was discovered during the eligibility process. Current law requires a return of all transferred assets before the department adjusts the penalty period. We are now requiring that this penalty be reduced if a part of the transfer is returned to the individual. **(PA 13-218)**

LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

The state is committed to giving seniors a choice in their long term care and support services. New legislation requires the Commission on Aging to establish and facilitate partnerships with municipal leaders, planning and zoning boards and social service organizations to encourage collaborative efforts for long term care planning. **(PA 13-109)**

NURSING HOMES

In order to protect our most vulnerable residents who reside in nursing homes, legislation was passed that requires nursing home staff to be trained to be aware of residents' fear of retaliation when they file a complaint about abuse. This law provides for education and awareness for both residents and staff regarding their rights. **(PA 13-70)**



PRESCRIPTION REFILLS

Prescription refill synchronization means that all of a patient's prescription refills are coordinated to occur on the same day every month. This law protects a patient's drug coverage by requiring that insurance companies cover prescriptions filled in a synchronized manner as long as the patient, their doctor and their pharmacist approve this medication plan. This will help small pharmacies that traditionally offer home delivery of prescriptions, allowing them to cut down overhead costs by only delivering to a specific home once a month. **(PA 13-131)**

