

OLDER IOWANS LEGISLATURE  
2007 PRIORITY BILLS

**#1 Priority Senior Issue: Bill 07-04 Amended  
Senior Living Trust Fund**

An act to restore and maintain the integrity of to Senior Living Trust Fund by ensuring that funding restored to the Fund is used for its original purpose to create a comprehensive long-term care system that is consumer directed, provides a balance between the alternatives of institutionally and non-institutionally provided services, and contributes to the quality of the lives of Iowans. The goal is also to provide a continuing source of funding (Chapter 249H)(SF 2193).

**EXPLANATION**

- The original funds for the Senior Living Trust Fund were provided by the Federal Government with the understanding that the money would be used to provide low income seniors and disabled persons with the opportunity to receive funding that would allow them to stay in their homes longer.
- A portion (40%) of the original dollar amount was made available to Iowa nursing homes to convert unused beds into assisted living facilities. All of the balance was to be used for home and community based care.
- The State Auditor has reported that monies have not been used for the purposes intended.
- The Iowa General Assembly in 2005 approved a bill to restore the fund but did not make a firm financial provision to do so. The bill called for the fund to be restored with “50% of excess funds at the end of the year” when it is unlikely that there will be any excess funds.
- With the Department of Elder Affairs depending on these monies for a large portion of their services budget, it is necessary that these funds be replaced.

**IMPACT**

The restoration and preservation of the Senior Living Trust Fund in Iowa will:

- Create a comprehensive long-term care system that is consumer directed.
- Support home and community based services to keep seniors in their own homes as long as possible.
- Provide a balance between the alternatives of institutionally and non-institutionally provided services for older adults.
- Be a continuing source of funding for Chapter 249H, SF 2193.

**The #1 priority of the Older Iowans Legislature on September 25, 2007 was the restoration and preservation of the Senior Living Trust Fund in Iowa. The Older Iowans Legislature believes that the Senior Living Trust Fund is funding that is essential to the Department of Elder Affairs and must be restored and preserved.**

**PENDING BILLS FROM THE 2007 SESSION OF THE IOWA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

- Senate File 55

By Rielly, Bolkcom, Stewart, Hancock, Ragan, Schoenjahn, Schmitz, Kreiman, Beall, Dotzler, Heckroth, Warnstadt, Horn, Seng, Olive, Dearden, Hatch, Wood, Fraise, Courtney, Kibbie, Appel, Connolly, Hogg, and Quirmbach

A bill for an act relating to the senior living trust fund and providing for appropriation of moneys from the fund.

January 25, 2007                      Introduced, referred to Appropriations

January 29, 2007                      Subcommittee, Dvorsky and Angelo
- House File 14

By Olson and Tomenga

A bill for an act increasing the taxes imposed on cigarettes and tobacco products and providing for deposit of the increased revenue generated in the senior living trust fund, and providing an applicability date and effective date.

January 11, 2007                      Read first time, referred to Ways and Means

February 15, 2007                      Subcommittee, Jochum, T. Olson, and Sands