[(1) the voucher states that the longer route is more cost effective;
(2) the voucher provides a reasonable justification for that statement; and
(3) the statement and justification are made by the chief administrator of the state agency making the reimbursement or by the chief administrator’s designee].

(c) The number of miles traveled that are eligible for reimbursement under this subchapter may be determined by an employee’s vehicle odometer reading or by a readily available electronic mapping service [comptroller shall periodically issue and update a mileage guide that includes a chart showing the number of miles for the shortest route between points. The guide also may include a chart showing the number of miles for longer routes between points. Farm-to-market and ranch-to-market roads shall be considered when determining the routes between points in this state. The guide may be electronic or printed, or both].

SECTION 2. Section 660.022(c), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c) A member of the legislature is entitled to be reimbursed for the member’s use of personally owned or leased motor vehicles and the use of rented or public conveyances at the same rate as is provided in the General Appropriations Act for state employees, except that the member may only receive mileage reimbursement for the most cost-effective route between the origin of the member’s travel and the final duty point.

SECTION 3. Section 660.043(d), Government Code, is repealed.

SECTION 4. Section 660.043, Government Code, as amended by this Act, applies only to the determination of reimbursable mileage for state employee travel occurring on or after January 1, 2010.

SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.
Passed by the House on March 26, 2009: Yeas 146, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 22, 2009: Yeas 30, Nays 0.
Approved June 19, 2009.
Effective September 1, 2009.

CHAPTER 318

H.B. No. 610
AN ACT relating to the establishment of the Legislative Committee on Aging and other initiatives relating to the aging population of this state.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Chapter 161, Human Resources Code, is amended by adding Subchapters G and H to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER G. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON AGING

Sec. 161.251. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:
(1) “Committee” means the Legislative Committee on Aging.
(2) “Health and human services agency” has the meaning assigned by Section 531.001, Government Code.

Sec. 161.252. LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON AGING ESTABLISHED. The Legislative Committee on Aging is established to:
(1) study issues relating to the aging population of Texas, including issues related to the health care, income, transportation, housing, education, and employment needs of that population; and
(2) make recommendations to address those issues.
Sec. 161.253. COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE; PRESIDING OFFICER. (a) The committee is composed of:

(1) two members of the senate appointed by the lieutenant governor;
(2) two members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives; and
(3) two public members appointed by the governor.

(b) A member of the committee serves at the pleasure of the appointing official.

(c) The lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint the presiding officer of the committee on an alternating basis. The presiding officer shall serve a two-year term expiring February 1 of each odd-numbered year.

Sec. 161.254. COMMITTEE POWERS AND DUTIES. (a) The committee shall:

(1) meet at least biannually at the call of the presiding officer;
(2) conduct a continuing study of issues relating to the aging population, including issues that are affected by the demographic and geographic diversity of the aging population in this state;
(3) analyze the availability of, and unmet needs for, state and local services for the aging population; and
(4) request reports and other information relating to the aging population as necessary from the executive commissioner, the department, other health and human services agencies, the attorney general, and any other state agency.

(b) The executive commissioner, the department, other health and human services agencies, the attorney general, and any other applicable state agency shall fully cooperate with the committee in performing the committee's duties under this subchapter.

(c) The committee may issue process, in accordance with Section 301.024, Government Code, to compel attendance of witnesses and the production of books, records, documents, and instruments required by the committee.

(d) The committee shall use the existing staff resources of the senate and the house of representatives to assist the committee in performing its duties under this section.

Sec. 161.255. REPORT. (a) The committee shall report to the standing committees of the senate and the house of representatives having jurisdiction over issues related to the needs of the aging population not later than November 15 of each even-numbered year.

(b) The report must include:

(1) a summary of the hearings and studies conducted by the committee during the preceding year;
(2) a statement of findings based on the hearings and studies conducted by the committee; and
(3) recommendations, if any, for legislation.

SUBCHAPTER H. CERTAIN INITIATIVES RELATING TO AGING

Sec. 161.301. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, “fund” means the Chris Kyker Endowment for Seniors Fund established under this subchapter.

Sec. 161.302. CONTRACT TO PROVIDE OUTREACH AND INPUT RELATING TO AGING POPULATION. (a) The executive commissioner may contract with an entity to:

(1) conduct local forums throughout this state to solicit input on and discuss policies regarding aging-related issues, including issues that are affected by the demographic and geographic diversity of the aging population in this state;
(2) provide analysis, education, and research services with respect to aging-related issues; and
(3) identify problems encountered by the aging population in this state and develop and recommend to the executive commissioner and the legislature solutions to those problems.
(b) If a contract entered into under this section includes a provision that allows a person performing duties under the contract on behalf of the entity to receive a per diem for days spent performing those duties and to be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred in performing those duties, the per diem and reimbursement for travel expenses incurred must be paid at the same rate set in the General Appropriations Act for state employees.

Sec. 161.303. ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF FUND. (a) The Chris Kyker Endowment for Seniors Fund is a special fund outside the state treasury held by the comptroller.

(b) The comptroller shall deposit in the fund:

(1) money appropriated to the fund;

(2) grants, gifts, and donations from any other public or private source; and

(3) income and interest, including depository interest, as provided by Subsection (f).

(c) The comptroller shall administer and manage the assets of the fund in accordance with this section and the rules adopted by the executive commissioner under Section 161.304(c). In managing the assets of the fund, the comptroller may acquire, exchange, sell, supervise, manage, or retain, through procedures and subject to restrictions the comptroller considers appropriate, any kind of investment that a prudent investor, exercising reasonable care, skill, and caution, would acquire or retain in light of the purposes, terms, distribution requirements, and other circumstances of the fund then prevailing, taking into consideration the investment of all the assets of the fund rather than a single investment.

(d) The expenses of managing fund investments shall be paid from the fund.

(e) On request, the comptroller shall fully disclose all details concerning the investments of the fund.

(f) Interest earned on the fund shall be credited to the fund.

Sec. 161.304. USE OF FUND. (a) The following may be used only to fund a contract entered into under Section 161.302:

(1) contributions to the fund described by Section 161.303(b)(2); and

(2) income and interest earned on money in the fund described by Section 161.303(b)(3).

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (a), money in the fund may not be used for any purpose.

(a) The executive commissioner may adopt rules regarding distribution of money in the fund in accordance with this section.

SECTION 2. (a) Not later than the 30th day after the effective date of this Act:

(1) the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint members of the Legislative Committee on Aging, as established by Section 161.252, Human Resources Code, as added by this Act; and

(2) the lieutenant governor shall appoint the initial presiding officer under Subsection (e), Section 161.253, Human Resources Code, as added by this Act.

(b) The Legislative Committee on Aging established by Section 161.252, Human Resources Code, as added by this Act, shall convene its initial meeting not later than November 1, 2009.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

Passed by the House on April 30, 2009: Yeas 96, Nays 33, 1 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 26, 2009: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 19, 2009.

Effective September 1, 2009.