



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 294**

February Session, 2004

Substitute House Bill No. 5380

*House of Representatives, March 29, 2004*

The Committee on Planning and Development reported through REP. WALLACE of the 109th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRAINING AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF RESIDENT SERVICE COORDINATORS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 8-114d of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2004*):

3 (a) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development  
4 shall award grants-in-aid to housing authorities, municipal developers  
5 and nonprofit corporations operating elderly housing projects  
6 pursuant to this part [(1)] to hire resident services coordinators to (1)  
7 facilitate conflict resolution between residents, including between  
8 seniors and younger residents, (2) establish and maintain relationships  
9 with community service providers and link residents to appropriate  
10 community services, (3) act as a liaison to assist in problem solving, (4)  
11 assist residents of such housing to maintain an independent living  
12 status, [(2) to] (5) assess the individual needs of residents of such

13 housing for the purpose of establishing and maintaining support  
 14 services, [(3) to] (6) provide orientation services to new residents and  
 15 maintain regular contact with residents of such housing, [(4) to] (7)  
 16 monitor the delivery of support services to residents of such housing,  
 17 [(5) to advocate] (8) organize resident activities and meetings that  
 18 promote socialization among all residents, and (9) communicate to the  
 19 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development any  
 20 changes in services sought [or required] by residents of such housing.  
 21 [, and (6) to provide mediation and conflict resolution services.] The  
 22 commissioner shall award grants-in-aid based on demonstration of  
 23 need and availability of matching funds. A joint application made by  
 24 more than one housing authority, municipal developer or nonprofit  
 25 corporation shall have the same preference as an application made by  
 26 one housing authority, municipal developer or nonprofit corporation.

27 (b) The employment of resident services coordinators by a housing  
 28 authority, municipal developer or nonprofit corporation operating  
 29 elderly housing projects pursuant to this part shall be considered an  
 30 allowable expense.

31 (c) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development  
 32 shall be responsible for arranging for monthly meetings of the resident  
 33 services coordinators for in-service training and information sharing.  
 34 Training topics shall include, but not be limited to, the health care  
 35 needs of seniors and persons with disabilities, mediation and conflict  
 36 resolution, and local and regional service resources.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	July 1, 2004

**HSG**      *Joint Favorable Subst. C/R*      PD

**PD**      *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

## **OFA Fiscal Note**

### **State Impact:**

<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>Fund-Effect</b>	<b>FY 05 \$</b>	<b>FY 06 \$</b>
Department of Economic & Community Development	GF - Cost	See Below	See Below
Comptroller Misc. Accounts (Fringe Benefits)	GF - Cost	\$9,104	20,619

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

### **Explanation**

Requiring the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) to arrange monthly in-service training and information sharing meetings of Resident Service Coordinators (RSC), as well as expanding and redefining their responsibilities, is anticipated to increase costs by over \$100,000 per year. It is estimated that DECD will require an additional full-time employee at a full-year cost of approximately \$45,000 plus fringe benefit<sup>1</sup> costs of \$9,104 in FY 05 and \$20,619 in FY 06, and associated expenses of \$2,000 to undertake these duties. It is also anticipated that additional costs to hire a consultant will be incurred for the actual training of the RSC's, increasing costs by approximately \$50,000.

<sup>1</sup> The fringe benefit costs for state employees are budgeted centrally in the Miscellaneous Accounts administered by the Comptroller. The total fringe benefit reimbursement rate as a percentage of payroll is 45.82%, effective July 1, 2003. However, first year fringe benefit costs for new positions do not include pension costs lowering the rate to 20.23% in FY 05. The state's pension contribution is based upon the prior year's certification by the actuary for the State Employees Retirement System.

**OLR Bill Analysis**

sHB 5380

**AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRAINING AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF RESIDENT SERVICE COORDINATORS****SUMMARY:**

This bill expands and redefines the responsibilities of resident service coordinators (RSCs). RSCs assist residents of State-assisted elderly housing projects. The bill also requires the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) to arrange monthly in-service training and information sharing meetings for RSCs. Training topics must include information on the health care needs of seniors and people with disabilities, mediation conflict resolution, and regional service resources.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2004

**RSC DUTIES**

The bill adds to RSC's responsibilities the requirement that they (1) organize meetings and plan activities to promote socialization among residents and (2) provide orientation services to new residents. It alters the role RSCs play in the process for relaying to DECD service changes that residents want. Current law requires RSCs to advocate to DECD for the changes residents seek and require. The bill instead requires RSCs to communicate to DECD any changes in services the residents seek. It eliminates (1) RSCs' role as advocates and (2) the characterization of certain changes sought as "required."

The bill redefines RSCs' responsibilities for conflict mediation and resolution by specifying that they must (1) facilitate conflict resolution between residents, including between elderly and younger residents; (2) establish and maintain relationships with community service providers, including linking residents to appropriate services; and (3) act as liaisons to assist in problem solving.

**BACKGROUND*****State-Assisted Elderly Housing Developments***

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By law, those who qualify to live in state-assisted elderly housing are people of low-income who (1) are age 62 and older and (2) age 61 or younger and certified by the Social Security Board or any other federal board or agency as totally disabled (CGS § 8-113a).

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Select Committee on Housing

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference

Yea 13      Nay 0

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 19      Nay 0