



Substitute Senate Bill No. 967

Public Act No. 05-77

AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMMISSION ON AGING.

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

Section 1. Section 17b-420 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2005*):

(a) There is established a Commission on Aging to advocate on behalf of elderly persons on issues and programs of concern to the elderly including, but not limited to, health care, nutrition, housing, employment, transportation, legal assistance and economic security. The commission shall be composed of [~~eleven~~] seventeen voting members who are knowledgeable about areas of interest to the elderly to be appointed as follows: Five by the Governor, [~~one~~] two by the president pro tempore of the Senate, [~~one~~] two by the speaker of the House of Representatives, [~~one~~] two by the majority leader of the Senate, [~~one~~] two by the majority leader of the House of Representatives, [~~one~~] two by the minority leader of the Senate and [~~one~~] two by the minority leader of the House of Representatives. The initial appointments to the commission shall be made by August 15, 1993. The initial term for three of the members appointed by the Governor and the members appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, majority leader of the House of Representatives and minority leader of the Senate shall expire August 15, 1997, and the

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initial term for two of the members appointed by the Governor and the members appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives, majority leader of the Senate and minority leader of the House of Representatives shall expire August 15, 1995. Thereafter, all members shall be appointed for a term of four years from August fifteenth in the year of their appointment. Members shall be limited to two consecutive terms. The commission shall include the following ex-officio nonvoting members: [The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters concerning the provision of services to the elderly and] The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to human services, the chairpersons and ranking members of the select committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to aging, the Commissioners of Social Services, Public Health, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Mental Retardation, Economic and Community Development and Transportation, the Insurance Commissioner and the Labor Commissioner. The chairperson of the commission shall be [selected by the Governor] elected from among its members. Members of the commission shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be reimbursed for any necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. [The Commissioner of Social Services shall convene the initial organizational meeting of the Commission on Aging on or before September 1, 1993.]

(b) The Commission on Aging shall: (1) Prepare and issue an annual report to the Governor, General Assembly and the legislative body of each municipality in the state on its findings and recommendations concerning services for the elderly in the state; (2) conduct annual public hearings on issues affecting the well-being of the elderly in the state; (3) meet [at least monthly with the commissioner and the head of the Division of Elderly Services of the Department of Social Services]

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regularly with representatives of state agencies to review and comment on the policies and procedures of the department concerning the elderly; (4) review and comment on the budget of the [Division of Elderly Services of] State Unit on Aging within the Department of Social Services; (5) meet as needed with state officials to discuss issues affecting the elderly; (6) conduct studies and report on issues affecting the elderly; and (7) disseminate information to the business community, education community, state and local governments and the media on the nature and scope of the problems faced by the elderly. The commission may accept any gifts, donations or bequests and may enter into contracts for any of the purposes of this section.

(c) There shall be an executive director of the Commission on Aging who shall be appointed by the commission. There may be additional staff within available appropriations. The commission shall be within the [Department of Social Services] Legislative Department for administrative purposes only.

Approved June 2, 2005