



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 159

January Session, 2005

Substitute Senate Bill No. 967

Senate, April 5, 2005

The Committee on Legislative Management reported through SEN. WILLIAMS of the 29th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMMISSION ON AGING.

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

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 Section 17b-420 of the general statutes is repealed and the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

3 (a) There is established a Commission on Aging to advocate on
4 behalf of elderly persons on issues and programs of concern to the
5 elderly including, but not limited to, health care, nutrition, housing,
6 employment, transportation, legal assistance and economic security.
7 The commission shall be composed of [eleven] seventeen voting
8 members who are knowledgeable about areas of interest to the elderly
9 to be appointed as follows: Five by the Governor, [one] two by the
10 president pro tempore of the Senate, [one] two by the speaker of the
11 House of Representatives, [one] two by the majority leader of the
12 Senate, [one] two by the majority leader of the House of
13 Representatives, [one] two by the minority leader of the Senate and

14 [one] two by the minority leader of the House of Representatives. The
15 initial appointments to the commission shall be made by August 15,
16 1993. The initial term for three of the members appointed by the
17 Governor and the members appointed by the president pro tempore of
18 the Senate, majority leader of the House of Representatives and
19 minority leader of the Senate shall expire August 15, 1997, and the
20 initial term for two of the members appointed by the Governor and the
21 members appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
22 majority leader of the Senate and minority leader of the House of
23 Representatives shall expire August 15, 1995. Thereafter, all members
24 shall be appointed for a term of four years from August fifteenth in the
25 year of their appointment. Members shall be limited to two
26 consecutive terms. The commission shall include the following ex-
27 officio nonvoting members: [The chairpersons and ranking members
28 of the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having
29 cognizance of matters concerning the provision of services to the
30 elderly and] A cochairperson and a ranking member of the joint
31 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
32 matters relating to human services, a cochairperson and ranking
33 member of the select committee on aging, the Commissioners of Social
34 Services, Public Health, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Mental
35 Retardation, Economic and Community Development and
36 Transportation, the Insurance Commissioner and the Labor
37 Commissioner. The chairperson of the commission shall be [selected
38 by the Governor] elected from among its members. Members of the
39 commission shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall
40 be reimbursed for any necessary expenses incurred in the performance
41 of their duties. [The Commissioner of Social Services shall convene the
42 initial organizational meeting of the Commission on Aging on or
43 before September 1, 1993.]

44 (b) The Commission on Aging shall: (1) Prepare and issue an annual
45 report to the Governor, General Assembly and the legislative body of
46 each municipality in the state on its findings and recommendations
47 concerning services for the elderly in the state; (2) conduct annual
48 public hearings on issues affecting the well-being of the elderly in the

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: See Below

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill makes various changes to the membership and powers of the Commission on Aging. These changes are not expected to result in any fiscal impact. The bill further moves the Commission from the Department of Social Services (DSS) (where it is for administrative purposes only) to the Legislative Department. There will be no net fiscal impact to the state from this move.

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 967

AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMMISSION ON AGING**SUMMARY:**

This bill moves the Commission on Aging from the executive branch to the legislative branch for administrative purposes only and adds six new members, one each to be appointed by the Senate president pro tem, the House speaker, and the Senate and House majority and minority leaders. Under the bill, each of these legislative leaders would have two rather than one appointment. The commission is currently located in the Department of Social Services (DSS) for administrative purposes only.

The bill also:

1. alters the commission's *ex officio* legislative membership from both chairpersons and ranking members of the Human Services Committee to one cochairperson and one ranking member each from the Human Services Committee and the Select Committee on Aging, but does not specify how this is determined;
2. requires the commission's chairperson to be elected from among its members instead of selected by the governor;
3. requires the commission to meet regularly with representatives of state agencies to review and comment on their policies and procedures concerning the elderly, instead of at least monthly with the DSS commissioner and head of DSS's Division of Elderly Services (which was recently subsumed under a larger Aging, Community Services and Social Work Division);
4. requires the commission to review and comment on the budget of the State Unit on Aging within DSS instead of the Division of Elderly Services; and
5. allows the commission to enter into contracts.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2005

BACKGROUND

Commission on Aging

The legislature established the Commission on Aging in 1993 when it disbanded the former Department on Aging and folded its program functions into the Division of Elderly Services in the newly DSS.

The commission advocates for elderly people on health care, nutrition, housing, employment, transportation, legal assistance, and other issues. It conducts public hearings, issues various reports, disseminates information, and makes recommendations on elderly issues. It currently consists of 23 members: 11 voting public members knowledgeable about elderly issues and 12 non-voting, *ex officio* members. The governor appoints five voting members and legislative leaders appoint the rest for four-year terms. The *ex officio* members are the chairmen and ranking members of the General Assembly's Human Services Committee and the commissioners of Social Services, Public Health, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Mental Retardation, Economic and Community Development, Transportation, Insurance, and Labor.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Select Committee on Aging

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference
Yea 11 Nay 1

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Report
Yea 16 Nay 0

Joint Committee on Legislative Management

Joint Favorable Report
Yea 12 Nay 4