



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 105

January Session, 2007

Senate Bill No. 5

Senate, March 22, 2007

The Committee on Human Services reported through SEN. HARRIS of the 5th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE FUNCTIONS, POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGING.

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

1 Section 1. Section 17a-317 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) [There is] Effective July 1, 2008, there shall be established a
4 Department on Aging which shall be under the direction and
5 supervision of the Commissioner on Aging who shall be appointed by
6 the Governor in accordance with the provisions of sections 4-5 to 4-8,
7 inclusive, with the powers and duties prescribed in said sections. The
8 commissioner shall be knowledgeable and experienced with respect to
9 the conditions and needs of elderly persons and shall serve on a full-
10 time basis.

11 (b) The Commissioner on Aging shall administer all laws under the
12 jurisdiction of the Department on Aging and shall employ the most
13 efficient and practical means for the provision of care and protection of

14 elderly persons. The commissioner shall have the power and duty to
15 do the following: (1) Administer, coordinate and direct the operation
16 of the department; (2) adopt and enforce regulations, in accordance
17 with chapter 54, as necessary to implement the purposes of the
18 department as established by statute; (3) establish rules for the internal
19 operation and administration of the department; (4) establish and
20 develop programs and administer services to achieve the purposes of
21 the department; (5) contract for facilities, services and programs to
22 implement the purposes of the department; (6) act as advocate for
23 necessary additional comprehensive and coordinated programs for
24 elderly persons; (7) assist and advise all appropriate state, federal, local
25 and area planning agencies for elderly persons in the performance of
26 their functions and duties pursuant to federal law and regulation; (8)
27 plan services and programs for elderly persons; (9) coordinate
28 outreach activities by public and private agencies serving elderly
29 persons; and (10) consult and cooperate with area and private
30 planning agencies.

31 (c) The functions, powers, duties and personnel of the Division of
32 Elderly Services of the Department of Social Services, or any
33 subsequent division or portion of a division with similar functions,
34 powers, personnel and duties, shall be transferred to the Department
35 on Aging pursuant to the provisions of sections 4-38d, 4-38e and 4-39.

36 (d) Any order or regulation of the Department of Social Services or
37 the Commission on Aging that is in force on [January 1, 2007] July 1,
38 2008, shall continue in force and effect as an order or regulation until
39 amended, repealed or superseded pursuant to law.

40 Sec. 2. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than January 1, 2008, the
41 results of both the comprehensive needs assessment of the unmet long-
42 term care needs in the state conducted pursuant to special act 02-7, as
43 amended by section 38 of public act 06-188, and the independent study
44 conducted by Southern Connecticut State University concerning the
45 establishment of the Department on Aging shall be presented to the
46 General Assembly for their consideration with respect to the functions,

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 chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect
Department of Aging	GF - See Below

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill delays the establishment of the Department of Aging from January 1, 2007 until July 1, 2008. The 2008-2009 Biennial Budget, as recommended by the Governor, includes \$450,000 in each year of the biennium to recognize the establishment of the new agency in FY 08. Due to the delay included in this bill, these funds will not be expended in FY 08. The bill further requires that the needs assessments currently underway be presented to the General Assembly by January 1, 2008.

The Out Years

None

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 5*****AN ACT CONCERNING THE FUNCTIONS, POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGING*****SUMMARY:**

This bill (1) postpones the re-establishment date of a Department on Aging by one year, from July 1, 2007 to July 1, 2008 and (2) requires the results of two previously authorized studies to be presented to the General Assembly by January 1, 2008 for their consideration with respect to the department's functions, powers, and duties.

One study is a comprehensive needs assessment of unmet long-term care needs. The other is an independent study conducted by Southern Connecticut State University on the department's establishment.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND***Department on Aging***

Connecticut had a Department on Aging from 1969 to 1993, when it was disbanded and most of its functions and personnel merged into the newly created Department of Social Services (DSS) as the Division of Elderly Services.

PA 05-280 re-establishes a Department on Aging as of January 1, 2007, headed by a commissioner appointed by the governor. (Subsequently, PA 06-188 postpones the department's establishment to July 1, 2007.) The act transfers the functions, powers, duties, and personnel of the DSS Division of Elderly Services to the Department on Aging. (This DSS division was merged into a larger Bureau of Aging, Community, and Social Work Services a few years ago.)

PA 05-280 also created a 20-member task force to study re-establishment of the Department on Aging. In its final report, the task force recommended the postponement to July 1, 2007 and the funding of the long-term care comprehensive needs assessment study. PA 06-188 enacted these recommendations and, in addition, the budget provided funding for the independent study on the department's establishment.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Select Committee on Aging

Joint Favorable Change of Reference

Yea 12 Nay 0 (02/27/2007)

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 18 Nay 0 (03/13/2007)