



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 139

January Session, 2011

* SB00139PS 032811 *

**AN ACT CONCERNING PERSONS RESIDING IN ELDERLY HOUSING
AND MEMBERS OF SENIOR CENTERS.**

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2011*) (a) For purposes of this
2 section, "elderly housing project" means housing for elderly persons
3 pursuant to section 8-114a of the general statutes and congregate
4 housing for the elderly pursuant to section 8-119h of the general
5 statutes.

6 (b) There is established a senior citizen's bill of rights for residents of
7 elderly housing projects and senior center membership. Each elderly
8 housing project and each senior center shall have a written bill of
9 rights that prescribes the rights afforded to each resident and each
10 member. A designated staff person from each elderly housing project
11 shall provide and explain the bill of rights to the resident at the time
12 that such resident enters into a residency agreement at the elderly
13 housing project. The bill of rights shall include, but not be limited to,
14 that each resident and each member has the right to:

15 (1) Be treated with consideration, respect and due recognition of
16 personal dignity, individuality and the need for privacy;

17 (2) Privacy within a private residential unit, subject to rules of the
18 elderly housing project reasonably designed to promote the health,

19 safety and welfare of the resident;

20 (3) Private communications, including receiving and sending
21 unopened correspondence, telephone access and visiting with persons
22 of one's choice;

23 (4) Freedom to participate in and benefit from community services
24 and activities so as to achieve the highest possible level of
25 independence, autonomy and interaction within the community;

26 (5) Exercise civil and religious liberties;

27 (6) Meet with other residents or members to discuss the policies,
28 procedures and services of the elderly housing project or senior center;

29 (7) Present grievances and recommend changes in policies,
30 procedures and services to the manager or staff of the elderly housing
31 project or senior center, government officials or any other person
32 without restraint, interference, coercion, discrimination or reprisal
33 from the elderly housing project or senior center; and

34 (8) Receive a copy of any rules or regulations of the elderly housing
35 project or senior center.

36 (c) Each elderly housing project and each senior center shall post in
37 a prominent place the senior citizen's bill of rights, including those
38 rights set forth in subsection (a) of this section.

39 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2011*) Each housing authority,
40 municipal developer or nonprofit corporation operating elderly
41 housing projects pursuant to part VI of chapter 128 of the general
42 statutes or congregate housing pursuant to part VII of chapter 128 of
43 the general statutes shall allow residents of each housing project or
44 congregate housing maintained by such authority, developer or
45 corporation to establish and maintain a garden if such housing project
46 or congregate housing has land appropriate for use as a garden,
47 provided any such resident establishing a garden shall consult with
48 the authority, developer or corporation regarding the type of herbs,

