



State Department on Aging

Written Testimony before the Human Services Committee

Roderick L. Bremby on behalf of the State Department on Aging

February 14, 2013

I am pleased to submit testimony on behalf of the new State Department on Aging which, pursuant to section 19 of PA 12-1, June special session, became effective on January 1, 2013. The legislation provides that “*The Department of Social Services shall administer programs under the jurisdiction of the Department on Aging until the Commissioner on Aging is appointed and administrative staff are hired.*” As of this time, a commissioner on Aging has not yet been appointed and accordingly, the Department of Social Services continues to administer these programs.

H.B. No. 6368 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE CHOICES HEALTH INSURANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

This proposal seeks to revise CGS§17b-427 to reflect updated terminology as well as eliminate duplicative program requirements that are currently provided by the federal government. At the time this statute was created, federal resources regarding healthcare options for the elderly were scarce. The intent was to ensure that the elderly had access to the necessary information in order to make informed healthcare decisions. Today, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has dramatically improved the information available to their beneficiaries, including the use of electronic media to ensure greater consumer access. Therefore, certain requirements of this statute are duplicating efforts that are already being done elsewhere.

Upon review of the proposal, we note that provisions were added to the language submitted by the department to the committee. These appear to be technical in nature and we are not opposed, however, we offer the following recommended changes. In section 2 the reference to the “Select Committee on Aging” should be replaced with “joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to aging” and “Commissioner of Social Services” should be replaced with the “Commissioner on Aging”.