



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5395

February Session, 2014



AN ACT CONCERNING AGING IN PLACE.

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

1 Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2014*) (a) For the purposes described in
2 subsection (b) of this section, the State Bond Commission shall have
3 the power from time to time to authorize the issuance of bonds of the
4 state in one or more series and in principal amounts not exceeding in
5 the aggregate five million dollars.

6 (b) The proceeds of the sale of said bonds, to the extent of the
7 amount stated in subsection (a) of this section, shall be used by the
8 Department of Rehabilitation Services for the purpose of administering
9 a grant program to provide assistance to eligible persons, as defined in
10 subsection (d) of section 17b-607 of the general statutes, as amended by
11 this act, for home modifications and assistive technology devices
12 necessary for such persons to remain in a home setting of their choice.

13 (c) All provisions of section 3-20 of the general statutes, or the
14 exercise of any right or power granted thereby, which are not
15 inconsistent with the provisions of this section are hereby adopted and
16 shall apply to all bonds authorized by the State Bond Commission
17 pursuant to this section, and temporary notes in anticipation of the
18 money to be derived from the sale of any such bonds so authorized
19 may be issued in accordance with said section 3-20 and from time to

20 time renewed. Such bonds shall mature at such time or times not
21 exceeding twenty years from their respective dates as may be provided
22 in or pursuant to the resolution or resolutions of the State Bond
23 Commission authorizing such bonds. None of said bonds shall be
24 authorized except upon a finding by the State Bond Commission that
25 there has been filed with it a request for such authorization which is
26 signed by or on behalf of the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
27 Management and states such terms and conditions as said commission,
28 in its discretion, may require. Said bonds issued pursuant to this
29 section shall be general obligations of the state and the full faith and
30 credit of the state of Connecticut are pledged for the payment of the
31 principal of and interest on said bonds as the same become due, and
32 accordingly and as part of the contract of the state with the holders of
33 said bonds, appropriation of all amounts necessary for punctual
34 payment of such principal and interest is hereby made, and the State
35 Treasurer shall pay such principal and interest as the same become
36 due.

37 (d) Any funds available through the program established pursuant
38 to this section shall be expended only for grants and administrative
39 costs and shall not be expended for any other purpose.

40 Sec. 2. Section 17b-607 of the 2014 supplement to the general statutes
41 is amended by adding subsection (d) as follows (*Effective July 1, 2014*):

42 (NEW) (d) On and after July 1, 2014, the Commissioner of
43 Rehabilitation Services is authorized to establish and administer a
44 grant fund for the purpose of providing assistance to eligible persons
45 to undertake home modifications and acquire assistive technology
46 devices necessary to allow such persons to live independently in a
47 home setting. For the purposes of this subsection, "eligible persons"
48 means persons age sixty-five and older or persons with disabilities (1)
49 who are at risk of losing the ability to live independently at home
50 without such modifications or devices in the judgment of an assistive
51 technology professional rehabilitation engineer or a certified aging-in-
52 place specialist, and (2) whose income does not exceed four hundred

53 per cent of the federal poverty level.

54 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2014*) (a) The Commission on Aging
55 shall establish a matching grant program as part of the livable
56 communities initiative established pursuant to section 17b-420a of the
57 general statutes, as amended by this act. The matching grant program
58 shall provide assistance to municipalities and nonprofit organizations
59 engaged in initiatives designed to allow elderly persons and adults
60 under the age of sixty-five with disabilities to age in place and to
61 remain in a home setting of their choice in a livable community, as
62 defined in subsection (a) of section 17b-420a of the general statutes, as
63 amended by this act. Such initiatives shall include, but not be limited
64 to: (1) Affordable and accessible housing, (2) community and social
65 services, (3) planning and zoning regulations that permit homesharing
66 and accessory apartments for elderly persons and adults with
67 disabilities, and (4) transportation-related infrastructure that provides
68 ease of access to elderly persons and persons with disabilities.

69 (b) Each municipality or nonprofit organization applying for such
70 grant funds shall provide a fifty per cent match to such funds. The
71 Commission on Aging shall disburse grant funds in amounts not
72 exceeding one hundred thousand dollars such that no one region of
73 the state receives a disproportionate amount of such funds, provided
74 municipalities from throughout the state apply for such funds. In
75 considering applications from the same geographical region of the
76 state which equally satisfy eligibility criteria, the commission shall give
77 priority to applications from municipalities with population
78 percentages of persons age sixty-five and older and persons with
79 disabilities that exceed the state's total population percentages of such
80 persons, as defined in the most recent federal decennial census or in
81 estimates provided in the five-year interim by the Office of Policy and
82 Management.

83 (c) A municipality or nonprofit organization, receiving a grant
84 pursuant to this section, shall annually submit to the Commission on
85 Aging, on forms provided by said commission, the following data on

86 programs funded by such grants: (1) The number of elderly persons
87 and persons with disabilities assisted under the program, (2) the
88 number of home accessory apartments or shared homes approved
89 under the program, (3) the number and type of transportation services
90 or options added, (4) the number and type of community and social
91 services added or expanded, (5) a budget detailing municipal
92 expenditures on such programs, and (6) any other information
93 determined to be necessary by the commission.

94 (d) Any funds available through the program established pursuant
95 to this section shall be expended only for grants and administrative
96 costs and shall not be expended for any other purpose.

97 Sec. 4. (*Effective July 1, 2014*) The sum of one million dollars is
98 appropriated to the Commission on Aging, from the General Fund, for
99 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, for purposes of the matching grant
100 program established under section 3 of this act.

101 Sec. 5. Section 17b-420a of the 2014 supplement to the general
102 statutes is amended by adding subsection (f) as follows (*Effective July 1,*
103 *2014*):

104 (NEW) (f) Not later than January 1, 2015, the Commission on Aging,
105 as part of the livable community initiative established pursuant to this
106 section, shall recognize communities that have implemented livable
107 community initiatives allowing individuals to age in place and to
108 remain in the home setting of their choice. Such initiatives shall
109 include, but not be limited to: (1) Affordable and accessible housing,
110 (2) community and social services, (3) planning and zoning
111 regulations, (4) walkability, and (5) transportation-related
112 infrastructure.

113 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2014*) The Department on Aging and
114 the Department of Social Services shall hold quarterly meetings with
115 nutrition service and food security stakeholders to develop
116 recommendations to address complexities in nutrition services'

117 administrative processes, establish quality control benchmarks and
118 help move toward greater quality, efficiency and transparency in the
119 elderly nutrition program. Stakeholders shall include, but not be
120 limited to, area agencies on aging, access agencies, the Commission on
121 Aging, nutrition providers, representatives of food security programs
122 and contractors, nutrition host site representatives and consumers.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2014	New section
Sec. 2	July 1, 2014	17b-607
Sec. 3	July 1, 2014	New section
Sec. 4	July 1, 2014	New section
Sec. 5	July 1, 2014	17b-420a
Sec. 6	July 1, 2014	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In section 1(b) a reference to the definitional provision of section 17b-607(d) was added for accuracy, in section 2(d) a reference to section 1 in the definitional provision was deleted as redundant, and in section 3(a) the matching grant program language was rephrased and the appropriation provision was deleted and made a separate section for consistency with the style of the general statutes.

AGE *Joint Favorable Subst.*