
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 5227 (as amended by House "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING AGING.

SUMMARY:

By January 1, 2015, this bill requires the Aging Commission, as part of the livable community initiative, to recognize communities that have implemented such initiatives allowing people to age in place and remain in the home setting they choose. The initiatives must include (1) affordable and accessible housing, (2) community and social services, (3) planning and zoning regulations, (4) walkability, and (5) transportation-related infrastructure.

The bill also requires the Aging and Social Services departments to hold quarterly meetings with nutrition service stakeholders to (1) develop recommendations to address complexities in the administrative processes of nutrition services; (2) establish quality control benchmarks; and (3) help move toward greater quality, efficiency, and transparency in the elderly nutrition program. Stakeholders include the Aging Commission, area agencies on aging, access agencies, nutrition providers, representatives of food security programs and contractors, nutrition host site representatives, and consumers.

*House Amendment "A" replaces the original file (a special act), which required the Aging commissioner to conduct a study of state services to the aging population.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2014

BACKGROUND

Livable Community Initiative

PA 13-109 required the Aging Commission to establish a "Livable Communities" initiative to serve as a (1) forum for best practices and

(2) resource clearinghouse to help municipal and state leaders design livable communities that allow residents to age in place.

Elderly Nutrition Program

Pursuant to federal law, the Department of Social Services operates elderly nutrition projects that provide nutritionally sound meals to people age 60 and older and their spouses. Programs must provide one meal per day, five days a week. These meals are offered at congregate sites, known as “senior community cafés,” or delivered to the homes of people too frail to come to the congregate locations or cook for themselves. Disabled people living in housing facilities that are congregate meal sites can also receive meals. The meals are free, although voluntary contributions are encouraged. Both federal and state funds are used to pay the program costs.

Related Bill

sHB 5395 (File 162) contains the same provisions as this bill and also authorizes up to \$5 million in general obligation bonds to provide grants to help income-eligible seniors and adults with disabilities modify their homes so they may age in place.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Aging Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 12 Nay 0 (03/11/2014)