

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 14-73—HB 5227

Aging Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING LIVABLE COMMUNITIES AND ELDERLY NUTRITION

SUMMARY: By January 1, 2015, this act requires the Aging Commission, as part of its “Livable Communities” initiative, to recognize communities that have implemented initiatives allowing people to age in place and stay 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. (PA 13-109 required the commission to establish a “Livable Communities” initiative to serve as a (1) forum for best practices and (2) clearinghouse for resources to help municipal and state leaders design livable communities that allow residents to age in place.)

The act 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 administration of nutrition services;
2. establish quality control benchmarks; and
3. help move toward greater quality, efficiency, and transparency in the elderly nutrition program (see BACKGROUND).

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.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2014

BACKGROUND

Elderly Nutrition Program

Under 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 per week. Meals are offered at congregate sites, known as “senior community cafés,” or delivered to the homes of those too frail to go to the congregate sites or cook for themselves. People with disabilities 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 pay for the program.

OLR Tracking: VR:KD:PF:ro