
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 7102

AN ACT CONCERNING SENIOR CENTERS.

SUMMARY

This bill expands the list of potential municipal agent appointees for the elderly to include senior center staff members. Under existing law, potential appointees include (1) members of a municipal agency for the elderly or (2) municipal residents with a demonstrated interest in the elderly or who have been involved in aging programs. By law, municipalities must appoint a municipal agent for the elderly to help seniors learn about community resources and file for benefits.

The bill also authorizes any one or more municipalities or private organizations that serve seniors and are designated to act as agents of one or more municipalities to establish a “multipurpose senior center.” The bill incorporates the federal definition of a multipurpose senior center: a community facility that organizes and provides a broad spectrum of senior services, including recreational activities and health (including mental and behavioral health), social, nutritional, and educational services (42 U.S.C. § 3002).

Lastly, the bill makes technical changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2019

MULTIPURPOSE SENIOR CENTERS

Under the bill, a multipurpose senior center must facilitate evaluation, planning, coordination, and implementation of programs and services for seniors and may provide the following services:

1. nutrition services,
2. health and wellness programs,

3. employment assistance,
4. intergenerational initiatives,
5. community service and civic engagement opportunities,
6. public benefits counseling,
7. socialization and educational opportunities,
8. transportation,
9. peer counseling,
10. financial and retirement counseling,
11. arts programs, and
12. case management services.

BACKGROUND

Legislative History

The House referred the bill (File 33) to the Appropriations Committee, which reported a substitute that eliminates the requirement that the Department of Rehabilitative Services (1) establish a 13-member statewide senior center work group and (2) provide assistance to senior centers, within available appropriations.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Aging Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 11 Nay 0 (02/26/2019)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 45 Nay 3 (05/02/2019)