



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 888**

January Session, 2019

Substitute House Bill No. 7102

*House of Representatives, May 16, 2019*

The Committee on Appropriations reported through REP. WALKER of the 93rd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

## ***AN ACT CONCERNING SENIOR CENTERS.***

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

1 Section 1. Section 7-127b of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2019*):

3 (a) The chief elected official or the chief executive officer if by  
4 ordinance of each municipality shall appoint a municipal agent for  
5 elderly persons. Such agent shall be a staff member of a senior center, a  
6 member of an agency that serves elderly persons in the municipality or  
7 a responsible resident of the municipality who has demonstrated an  
8 interest in the elderly or has been involved in programs in the field of  
9 aging.

10 (b) The duties of the municipal agent may include, but shall not be  
11 limited to: [ ] (1) [disseminating] Disseminating information to elderly  
12 persons, assisting such persons in learning about the community  
13 resources available to them and publicizing such resources and  
14 benefits; (2) assisting elderly persons to apply for federal and other

15 benefits available to such persons; and (3) reporting to the chief elected  
16 official or chief executive officer of the municipality and the  
17 Department of Rehabilitation Services any needs and problems of the  
18 elderly and any recommendations for action to improve services to the  
19 elderly.

20 (c) Each municipal agent shall serve for a term of two or four years,  
21 at the discretion of the appointing authority of each municipality, and  
22 may be reappointed. If more than one agent is necessary to carry out  
23 the purposes of this section, the appointing authority, in its discretion,  
24 may appoint one or more assistant agents. The town clerk in each  
25 municipality shall notify the Department of Rehabilitation Services  
26 immediately of the appointment of a new municipal agent. Each  
27 municipality may provide to its municipal agent resources sufficient  
28 for such agent to perform the duties of the office.

29 (d) The Department of Rehabilitation Services shall adopt and  
30 disseminate to municipalities guidelines as to the role and duties of  
31 municipal agents and such informational and technical materials as  
32 may assist such agents in performance of their duties. The department,  
33 in cooperation with the area agencies on aging, may provide training  
34 for municipal agents within the available resources of the department  
35 and of the area agencies on aging.

36 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2019*) (a) Any one or more  
37 municipalities, or any one or more private organizations that serve  
38 older persons and are designated to act as agents of one or more  
39 municipalities, may establish a multipurpose senior center, as defined  
40 in Title I of the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended from time to  
41 time. Such senior center shall facilitate evaluation, planning,  
42 coordination and implementation of programs and services, including,  
43 but not limited to, those relating to (1) health, including mental and  
44 behavioral health; (2) social, nutritional and educational services; and  
45 (3) recreational activities for older persons.

46 (b) A multipurpose senior center established pursuant to subsection  
47 (a) of this section may provide, but need not be limited to, the

48 following services: (1) Nutrition services; (2) health and wellness  
49 programs; (3) employment assistance; (4) intergenerational initiatives;  
50 (5) community service and civic engagement opportunities; (6) public  
51 benefits counseling; (7) socialization and educational opportunities; (8)  
52 transportation; (9) peer counseling; (10) financial and retirement  
53 counseling; (11) arts programs; and (12) case management services.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	7-127b
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	New section

**APP**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

*The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.*

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**OFA Fiscal Note****State Impact:** None**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

The bill, which makes clarifying changes, and codifies current practice by allowing municipalities to establish multipurpose senior centers, has no fiscal impact to the state or municipalities.

*Sources: Senior Center Task Force Final Report*

**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)