



General Assembly

January Session, 2019

Raised Bill No. 7102

LCO No. 3375



Referred to Committee on AGING

Introduced by:
(AGE)

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 Section 7-127b of the general statutes is repealed and the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.

54 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2019*) (a) Within available
55 appropriations, the Department of Rehabilitation Services shall
56 provide assistance to senior centers including, but not limited to, the
57 following duties: (1) Establishment and maintenance of a list of senior
58 centers and municipal services for older persons; (2) establishment and
59 maintenance of a list of resources for staff of senior centers and
60 municipal services for older persons; (3) technical assistance to staff of
61 senior centers and municipal services for older persons through direct
62 assistance or referral to expert resources; (4) regular communication to
63 staff of senior centers and municipal services for older persons of
64 information about local, state and federal support, and services of
65 interest to senior centers and municipal services for older persons; and
66 (5) establishment and facilitation of a state-wide senior center work
67 group as described in subsection (b) of this section. The Commissioner
68 of Rehabilitation Services shall assign or appoint necessary personnel
69 to perform such duties.

70 (b) The Department of Rehabilitation Services shall establish a state-
71 wide senior center work group comprised of, but not limited to: (1)
72 The Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services, or the commissioner's
73 designee; (2) the Commissioner of Social Services, or the
74 commissioner's designee; (3) two representatives of the Connecticut
75 Association of Senior Center Personnel; (4) one representative of the
76 Connecticut Association of Municipal Agents for the Elderly; (5) one
77 representative of the Connecticut Local Administrators of Social
78 Services; (6) five representatives of senior centers, with one from each
79 of the five planning and service areas, as described in section 17a-304
80 of the general statutes; (7) one representative from a nonprofit senior
81 center; and (8) one representative from a senior center that is

82 accredited by the National Institute of Senior Centers.

83 (c) The senior center work group shall ensure a coordinated plan of
84 development for senior centers and municipal services for older
85 persons and shall: (1) Develop an annual plan for the support and
86 development of senior centers and municipal services for older
87 persons, including, but not limited to, training needs and the
88 coordination of existing resources; (2) evaluate the feasibility of
89 implementing standards for the delivery of core services and make
90 recommendations for such standards, including, but not limited to,
91 recommending standards that allow for parity of core services across
92 municipalities while maintaining flexibility for delivery of those core
93 services; (3) consult with the five area agencies on aging and other
94 agencies; (4) facilitate coordination and communication between senior
95 centers and municipal services for older persons with executive branch
96 departments, including, but not limited to, the Departments of
97 Rehabilitation Services, Public Health, Transportation, Housing and
98 Mental Health and Addiction Services, and agencies and initiatives
99 that impact older persons in the community; (5) develop and provide
100 access to best practices and procedures for senior centers and
101 municipal services for older persons; and (6) make recommendations
102 to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
103 cognizance of matters relating to human services, housing, public
104 health and transportation for any necessary appropriations or
105 legislative changes.

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
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To authorize multipurpose senior centers and a working group to help coordinate senior center planning, development and services.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]