



General Assembly

**Amendment**

January Session, 2019

LCO No. 10914



Offered by:

REP. SERRA, 33<sup>rd</sup> Dist.

REP. TURCO, 27<sup>th</sup> Dist.

REP. HAMPTON, 16<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 7102

File No. 888

Cal. No. 40

**"AN ACT CONCERNING SENIOR CENTERS."**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the  
2 following in lieu thereof:

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 Section 7-127b of the general statutes is repealed and the  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

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

12 (b) The duties of the municipal agent may include, but shall not be

13 limited to: [ ] (1) [disseminating] Disseminating information to elderly  
14 persons, assisting such persons in learning about the community  
15 resources available to them and publicizing such resources and  
16 benefits; (2) assisting elderly persons to apply for federal and other  
17 benefits available to such persons; and (3) reporting to the chief elected  
18 official or chief executive officer of the municipality and the  
19 Department of Rehabilitation Services any needs and problems of the  
20 elderly and any recommendations for action to improve services to the  
21 elderly.

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

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

38 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2019*) (a) Any one or more  
39 municipalities, or any one or more private organizations that serve  
40 older persons and are designated to act as agents of one or more  
41 municipalities, may establish a multipurpose senior center, as defined  
42 in Title I of the Older Americans Act of 1965, as amended from time to  
43 time.

44 (b) A multipurpose senior center established pursuant to subsection

45 (a) of this section may provide, but need not be limited to, the  
46 following services: (1) Nutrition services; (2) health, including mental  
47 and behavioral health, and wellness programs; (3) employment  
48 assistance; (4) intergenerational initiatives; (5) community service and  
49 civic engagement opportunities; (6) public benefits counseling; (7)  
50 socialization and educational opportunities; (8) transportation; (9) peer  
51 counseling; (10) financial and retirement counseling; (11) arts and  
52 recreation programs; and (12) case management services.

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

70 Sec. 4. (*Effective October 1, 2019*) (a) There is established a state-wide  
71 senior center working group to develop a coordinated plan of  
72 development for senior centers and municipal services for older  
73 persons.

74 (b) The working group shall: (1) Develop an annual plan for the  
75 support and development of senior centers and municipal services for  
76 older persons, including, but not limited to, training needs and the  
77 coordination of existing resources; (2) evaluate the feasibility of

78 implementing standards for the delivery of core services and make  
79 recommendations for such standards, including, but not limited to,  
80 standards that allow for parity of core services across municipalities  
81 while maintaining flexibility for delivery of those core services; (3)  
82 consult with the five area agencies on aging and other agencies; (4)  
83 facilitate coordination and communication between senior centers and  
84 municipal services for older persons with executive branch  
85 departments, including, but not limited to, the Departments of  
86 Rehabilitation Services, Public Health, Transportation, Housing and  
87 Mental Health and Addiction Services and agencies and initiatives that  
88 impact older persons in the community; (5) develop and provide  
89 access to best practices and procedures for senior centers and  
90 municipal services for older persons; and (6) make recommendations  
91 to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having  
92 cognizance of matters relating to human services, housing, public  
93 health and transportation for any necessary appropriations or  
94 legislative changes.

95 (c) The working group shall consist of the following members:

96 (1) Five representatives of senior centers, one from each of the five  
97 planning and services areas, as described in section 17a-304 of the  
98 general statutes, two appointed by the president pro tempore of the  
99 Senate, two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives  
100 and one appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
101 Representatives;

102 (2) Two representatives of the Connecticut Association of Senior  
103 Center Personnel appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

104 (3) One representative of the Connecticut Local Administrators of  
105 Social Services appointed by the minority leader of the Senate;

106 (4) One representative from a senior center that is accredited by the  
107 National Institute of Senior Centers appointed by the minority leader  
108 of the House of Representatives;

109 (5) Two appointed by the Governor, one a representative of the  
110 Connecticut Association of Municipal Agents for the Elderly and one a  
111 representative of a nonprofit senior center;

112 (6) The executive director of the Commission on Women, Children  
113 and Seniors, who shall serve as chairperson of the working group;

114 (7) The Commissioner of the Department of Aging and Disability  
115 Services, or the commissioner's designee; and

116 (8) The Commissioner of Social Services, or the commissioner's  
117 designee.

118 (d) Any member of the working group appointed under subdivision  
119 (1), (2), (3) or (4), of subsection (c) of this section may be a member of  
120 the General Assembly.

121 (e) All appointments to the working group shall be made not later  
122 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy  
123 shall be filled by the appointing authority.

124 (f) The chairperson of the working group shall schedule the first  
125 meeting, which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective  
126 date of this section.

127 (g) The administrative staff of the Commission on Women, Children  
128 and Seniors shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

129 (g) Not later than January 1, 2021, the working group shall submit a  
130 report on its findings and recommendations to the joint standing  
131 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
132 relating to aging, in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of  
133 the general statutes. The working group shall terminate on the date  
134 that it submits such report or January 1, 2021, whichever is later."

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
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2019</i>	New section