



General Assembly

Amendment

January Session, 2019

LCO No. 8884



Offered by:

REP. SERRA, 33rd Dist.

SEN. MARONEY, 14th Dist.

REP. TURCO, 27th Dist.

SEN. OSTEN, 19th 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 Section 7-127b of the general statutes is repealed and the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*) (a) 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 (b) The executive director of the Commission on Women, Children
71 and Seniors shall establish a state-wide senior center working group
72 comprised of, but not limited to: (1) The Commissioner of the
73 Department of Aging and Disability Services, or the commissioner's
74 designee; (2) the Commissioner of Social Services, or the
75 commissioner's designee; (3) two representatives of the Connecticut
76 Association of Senior Center Personnel; (4) one representative of the
77 Connecticut Association of Municipal Agents for the Elderly; (5) one

78 representative of the Connecticut Local Administrators of Social
 79 Services; (6) five representatives of senior centers, with one from each
 80 of the five planning and service areas, as described in section 17a-304
 81 of the general statutes; (7) one representative from a nonprofit senior
 82 center; and (8) one representative from a senior center that is
 83 accredited by the National Institute of Senior Centers.

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

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

Sec. 3	October 1, 2019	New section
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