

Aging Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-162

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING SENIOR CENTERS.

Vote Date: 3/3/2020

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/27/2020

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Aging Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The bill is intended to establish multipurpose senior centers with resources, municipal agents and working groups to study the needs of senior centers. To formalize a network that will support elderly residents living in senior centers or require access to senior center services. By creating an established network, resources are made accessible to elderly residents living in municipal communities.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Jennifer Bennett, Coordinator, Avon Senior Center

The Coordinator has expressed support to this bill. She mentioned that by fully funding the senior center liaison position and formalizing a network of senior centers through legislation would support seniors in receiving resources as well as retain a presence in the community.

Tina Doyle, Director and Municipal Agent, Berlin Senior Center

The Director and Municipal Agent expressed support to this bill. She mentioned that the state needs to formalize its services by establishing a network and create positions designed to best support aging resident needs.

Rick Liegl, Senior Affairs Administrator, Department of Health and Human Services

The Senior Affairs Administrator expressed support to this bill. He mentioned that the state should uphold the Older Americans Act and expand the amount of adult day centers and senior centers to support aging residents stay within the community.

Amy Porter, Commissioner, The Department of Aging and Disability Services

The Commissioner expressed support to this bill. She mentioned that the proposals created to enhance the work of senior centers are beneficial to the aging population. She credits the importance of proposing the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity to perform oversight of senior centers and assist in the distribution of resources.

Dianne Stone, Co- Chair, Senior Center Task Force

The Co- Chair expressed support to this bill. She mentioned that through the authorization of creating municipal agents and establishing a state task force to evaluate aging issues it will best support aging populations who seek to stay in the community.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Sen. Cathy Osten, 119th Assembly District

The Senator has expressed support to this bill. She mentioned that a holistic approach to provide Senior Centers with additional resources and working groups would ensure state senior centers will continue to remain a space for the aging population.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed.

Reported by: Shelby Michelle Williams

Date: 03/05/2020