

Human Services Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1055

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGING AND DISABILITY

Title: SERVICES.

Vote Date: 3/31/2021

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 3/25/2021

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Human Services Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill seeks to make several adjustments to the statutes concerning the Department of Aging and Disability. In Sections 1, 2, and 7 the bill merges three duplicative statutory provisions into one. This aligns the Assistive Technology loan program for persons with disabilities with best practice and federal guidance. Section 4 modernizes the use of technology in a program that educates persons who are deaf or hard of hearing. Section 5 of the bill streamlines the appointment process for the Advisory Board for Persons Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. The remaining amendments are very technical changes to existing statutes. All of these provisions aim to maximize the Department's efficiency.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Amy Porter, Commissioner, Department of Aging and Disability Services, supports this bill. The provisions seek to modernize statutes, to improve out-of-date processes. Commissioner Porter explains that the new method proposed for the Assistive Technology revolving loan program will have many benefits both for the Department and the borrowers. This bill also proposes to allow "maximum flexibility to respond to and use any changes in technology that may occur in the future," which will expand the program's reach. By streamlining the appointment process for the Advisory Board for Persons Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, members will be able to begin their active participation on the Board more quickly. Commissioner Porter notes that other proposals within this bill are technical changes to existing statutes.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

None expressed

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None expressed

Reported by: Gianna Vollano

Date: April 8, 2021