

# Aging Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-817

**Title:** AN ACT CONCERNING SENIOR CENTERS.

**Vote Date:** 2/16/2021

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 2/9/2021

**File No.:**

***Disclaimer:** The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Aging Committee

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

This bill addresses the need for the 168 local senior centers in the State, which all operate locally, to begin to also work in a regional manner. The need for the local senior centers is paramount to the communities which they serve and can be bettered by development of core competencies. Additionally, this bill addresses the necessity of coordinating support for the senior centers in the area of a better network of communication which in turn would better support the short and long-term needs of our senior population.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

**Senator Cathy Osten, CT General Assembly:** Her testimony was in support of this proposal as she had done during the last session of the General Assembly.

**Commissioner Amy Porter, Dept. of Aging and Disability Services:** Her testimony was in support of this proposal. They are grateful that Section 2 refers to the federal definition of senior centers and are confident that the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity will be able to coordinate assistance, direction and advice to senior centers. They also support the creation of a working group and their participation in this group.

**Michael Werner, Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity:** They submitted testimony in support of this bill. They point out that Sections 3 and 4 call for additional duties from their Commission and that while they are eager to lead in the work their ability to do so is contingent on filling an Aging Policy Analyst vacancy. This bill works to address the need for core competencies and coordinating support for senior centers.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**Zachary McKeown, Senior Legislative Assoc., Connecticut Conference of Municipalities:** Their testimony is in support of this proposal as it provides the resources and framework to establish multi-purpose senior centers.

**Luelia Landis, Chair of the Cromwell Senior Center:** Her e-mail testimony is in support of this bill and that it will help in a formal way. Their ability to deal directly with state offices will make it easier to determine what has worked with others and could help them.

**Amy Saada, Director, Cromwell Senior Center:** She is supportive of this legislation and points out that they do need assistance. She believes that they need to connect with state services and this bill would help. It is indicated that other states have networks of training and standardization and this is an area in which we can modernize.

**Dianne Stone, Co-Chair, Senior Center Task Force:** She is support of this bill. Her comments are broken down into several areas such as defining senior centers, assigns responsibility to a state agency for assisting senior centers and the establishment of a state-wide working group as stated in the bill. She also mentions that this is the 4<sup>th</sup> time this bill has been considered and given favorable action.

**Task Force to Study Senior Centers, Special Act 16-7:** This is the report of the Senior Center Task Force – Submitted 2/6/18.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

No opposition to the was submitted.

**Reported by:** Joe Perkus, Clerk  
Richard Ferrari, Assist. Clerk  
Richard O'Neil, Assistant Clerk

**Date:** 3/2/21