

Aging Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-171
AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REVOLVING LOAN ACCOUNT TO ASSIST
Title: ELDERLY HOMEOWNERS.
Vote Date: 3/10/2022
Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute
PH Date: 3/3/2022
File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Aging Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The reason behind the bill is to create a revolving loan fund to support elderly homeowners in paying their taxes, to prevent poverty and tax delinquency. The program would provide relief to elderly homeowners, and thus increase support for elderly residents in fixed- or low-income situations.

The JFS language would add a requirement that the homeowner had to occupy home as permanent state resident (more than 183 days) for eight of the last 10 municipal tax years. It also discounts income from a spouse in long-term care institution on Medicaid and explicitly requires the loan be spent on tax bill. These changes were made to remedy concerns from OPM.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Martin Heft, Undersecretary of Policy, Office of Policy and Management, stated that OPM opposes this bill, on the grounds that it would require 7 additional staff to administer the program, at a cost of \$550,000 for FY 23. He also raised concern that the loan should only apply to outstanding tax, post-homeowner credit, and noted concerns with the ambiguity of the definitions of "any owner" and "qualifying income". Finally, he stated that the state would be placed in an uncertain lien position on property.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Marie Allen, President, Southwestern CT Agency on Aging, offered testimony in support of the bill, stating that the program would create a cost-effective way to support the independence of older adults on fixed income, while ensuring a return of loans.

Zachary McKeown, Senior Legislative Associate, Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, offered testimony in support of the bill, on the grounds that it would assist financially distressed elderly homeowners in paying their property taxes.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

David Godbout, Constituent, he expressed opposition to all bills put forward by the committee under the claim of nullification.

Reported by:

Date: 03/14/2022

Cameron Clarke, Committee Clerk
Richard Ferrari, Assistant Clerk