

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2000 Session

FISCAL NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 617 (Senator Hoffman)

Budget and Taxation

Department of Aging - Senior Citizens Activities Center Operating Fund

This bill establishes the Senior Citizens Activities Center Operating Fund within the Department of Aging to provide additional funds to economically distressed areas for senior citizens activities centers.

The bill is effective June 1, 2000.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditure increase of \$500,000 annually beginning in FY 2002.

(in dollars)	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
GF Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditures	0	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Net Effect	\$0	(\$500,000)	(\$500,000)	(\$500,000)	(\$500,000)

Note: () = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - =indeterminate effect

Local Effect: Local governments in economically distressed areas providing support for senior citizens activities centers may benefit from the availability of additional funds.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: This bill creates a special fund, the Senior Citizens Activities Center Operating Fund, within the Department of Aging. At least 50% of the funds are to be distributed to counties in economically distressed areas for senior citizens activities centers based upon need as determined by the Department of Aging. The fund is to supplement any existing funding for senior citizens activities centers in the State budget, and may not be used to supplant existing funding.

An economically distressed area is defined as a county with a strategic plan for economic development that has been approved by the Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED) and: (1) has an average unemployment rate of more than 150% of the average State unemployment rate for the most recent 18-month period for which there is data; or (2) has an average per capita personal income that is 67% or less of the average State per capita personal income for the most recent 24-month period for which there is data.

The bill requires the Governor to include \$500,000 for the fund in the State budget beginning in fiscal 2002, and for every year thereafter.

Current Law: None applicable.

Background: The Department of Aging has several programs for direct services to senior citizens including programs for the vulnerable elderly, nutrition, employment, and housing. The fiscal 2001 budget for the Department of Aging does not provide funds for senior centers.

In the early 1990s, the average senior citizens centers funding amount was approximately \$500,000, which was subsequently eliminated in fiscal 1994.

Based on the average unemployment rate and average personal income criteria for determining an economically distressed area, six counties (Allegany, Caroline, Dorchester, Garrett, Somerset, and Worcester), and Baltimore City would qualify as economically distressed areas.

State Fiscal Effect: General fund expenditures would increase by \$500,000 each year beginning in fiscal 2002.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 759 (Delegate McIntosh, *et al.*) - Appropriations.

Information Source(s): Department of Aging, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 6, 2000
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Analysis by: Louise I. Hanson

Direct Inquiries to:
John Rixey, Coordinating Analyst
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510