

# SENATE BILL 611

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71r2867  
CF HB 605

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By: **Senator Middleton**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2007

Assigned to: Finance

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 15, 2007

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Statewide Empowerment Zones for Seniors Commission**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Statewide Empowerment Zones for Seniors  
4 Commission; providing for the membership of the Commission; authorizing the  
5 Commission to consult with certain individuals and entities; authorizing the  
6 Secretary of Aging to perform certain duties; requiring the Commission to make  
7 certain recommendations; providing for the requirements for a qualifying  
8 comprehensive empowerment zone for seniors plan; requiring the Department  
9 of Aging to staff the Commission; requiring the Commission to submit certain  
10 reports to the Governor and General Assembly on or before certain dates;  
11 providing that a member of the Commission may receive a certain  
12 reimbursement; ~~providing for a certain annual appropriation to the~~  
13 ~~Commission~~; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to  
14 the Statewide Empowerment Zones for Seniors Commission.

15 BY adding to

16 Article – Human Services

17 Section 10–801 through ~~10–807~~ 10–806 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 8.

18 Statewide Empowerment Zones for Seniors Commission”

19 Annotated Code of Maryland

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### EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 (As enacted by Chapter \_\_\_\_ (S.B. 6) of the Acts of the General Assembly of  
2 2007)

3 Preamble

4 WHEREAS, In the first two decades of the 21st century, the population of  
5 Marylanders over age 60 is expected to rise by 74%, to nearly 1.4 million, according to  
6 U.S. Census Bureau estimates; and

7 WHEREAS, Older adults overwhelmingly report that they want to grow old in  
8 their homes and communities, rather than in institutional settings; and

9 WHEREAS, Many older adults move to institutional facilities unwillingly and  
10 prematurely because they lack the resources to continue to live at home; and

11 WHEREAS, Providing home and community-based services that enable older  
12 adults to age in place has shown to be the most cost-effective model for aging; and

13 WHEREAS, Maryland is home to several examples of a new aging-in-place  
14 model called Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORC) Supportive  
15 Services Programs, which combine public, nonprofit, and private sector entities to  
16 provide a comprehensive array of housing, social, medical, and transportation services  
17 to help seniors age in place; and

18 WHEREAS, The AARP Public Policy Institute has defined a Livable  
19 Community for Seniors as one that has affordable and appropriate housing, supportive  
20 community features and services, and adequate mobility options, that when combined  
21 facilitate personal independence and the engagement of residents in civic and social  
22 life; and

23 WHEREAS, Developing a new aging-in-place model that combines the  
24 individual service focus of NORCs with the comprehensive neighborhood scope of  
25 Livable Communities will capitalize on the invaluable contributions of older  
26 Marylanders, while at the same time ensure that State resources are focused in those  
27 areas where they will have the greatest impact; now, therefore,

28 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
29 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

30 **Article - Human Services**

31 **SUBTITLE 8. STATEWIDE EMPOWERMENT ZONES FOR SENIORS COMMISSION.**

1 **10-801.**

2 **THERE IS A STATEWIDE EMPOWERMENT ZONES FOR SENIORS**  
3 **COMMISSION.**

4 **10-802.**

5 **(A) THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:**

6 **(1) ONE MEMBER OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY**  
7 **THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;**

8 **(2) ONE MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY**  
9 **THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;**

10 **(3) THE SECRETARY OF AGING, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;**

11 **(4) THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE, OR THE**  
12 **SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;**

13 **(5) THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY**  
14 **DEVELOPMENT, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;**

15 **(6) THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION, OR THE SECRETARY'S**  
16 **DESIGNEE;**

17 **(7) THE SECRETARY OF PLANNING, OR THE SECRETARY'S**  
18 **DESIGNEE;**

19 **~~(7)~~ (8) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENT;**

20 **~~(8)~~ (9) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE MARYLAND**  
21 **ASSOCIATION OF AREA AGENCIES ON AGING;**

22 **~~(9)~~ (10) TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM PROVIDERS OF SENIOR**  
23 **SERVICES;**

24 **~~(10)~~ (11) TWO REPRESENTATIVES FROM SENIOR ADVOCACY**  
25 **ORGANIZATIONS;**

1           ~~(11)~~ (12) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM A NEIGHBORHOOD OR  
2 COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION;

3           ~~(12)~~ (13) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM A TRADE ASSOCIATION  
4 WHOSE MEMBERS PROVIDE SERVICES TO SENIORS;

5           ~~(13)~~ (14) ONE CONSUMER MEMBER AT LEAST 60 YEARS OLD; AND

6           ~~(14)~~ (15) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM AN ACADEMIC  
7 INSTITUTION WHO HAS EXPERTISE IN AGING STUDIES OR A RELATED FIELD.

8           (B) IN PERFORMING ITS DUTIES, THE COMMISSION MAY CONSULT WITH  
9 INDIVIDUALS AND ENTITIES THAT THE SECRETARY DEEMS APPROPRIATE.

10 **10-803.**

11           (A) THE SECRETARY OF AGING SHALL:

12                 (1) CHAIR THE COMMISSION;

13                 (2) APPOINT THE NONDESIGNATED MEMBERSHIP OF THE  
14 COMMISSION; AND

15                 (3) ESTABLISH SUBCOMMITTEES AND APPOINT SUBCOMMITTEE  
16 CHAIRS AS NECESSARY TO FACILITATE THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION.

17           (B) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE MEMBERS APPOINTED TO THE  
18 COMMISSION SHALL REASONABLY REFLECT THE GEOGRAPHIC, RACIAL,  
19 ETHNIC, CULTURAL, AND GENDER DIVERSITY OF THIS STATE.

20 **10-804.**

21           (A) THE COMMISSION SHALL RECOMMEND A PLAN TO DEVELOP AN  
22 EMPOWERMENT ZONES FOR SENIORS PROGRAM IN THE STATE THAT DIRECTS  
23 FINANCIAL AND REGULATORY INCENTIVES TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES THAT  
24 DEVELOP A QUALIFYING COMPREHENSIVE EMPOWERMENT ZONE FOR SENIORS  
25 PLAN THAT IS DESIGNED TO ENHANCE AGING-IN-PLACE SERVICES AND  
26 FACILITATE THE PERSONAL INDEPENDENCE AND CIVIC AND SOCIAL  
27 ENGAGEMENT OF SENIORS IN THE COMMUNITY.

1           **(B) A QUALIFYING COMPREHENSIVE EMPOWERMENT ZONE FOR**  
2 **SENIORS PLAN SHALL:**

3                   **(1) BE DEVELOPED AND IMPLEMENTED JOINTLY BY**  
4 **STAKEHOLDERS IN A COMMUNITY, INCLUDING STATE AND LOCAL**  
5 **GOVERNMENTS, SENIOR HOUSING OWNERS OR MANAGERS, HEALTH PROVIDERS,**  
6 **NONPROFIT ELDERLY SERVICES PROVIDERS, LOCAL BUSINESSES, AND**  
7 **INDIVIDUAL SENIORS;**

8                   **(2) INCLUDE AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE, AND APPROPRIATE**  
9 **HOUSING;**

10                   **(3) INCLUDE SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY FEATURES AND SERVICES;**

11                   **(4) PROVIDE ADEQUATE MOBILITY OPTIONS;**

12                   **(5) INCLUDE EVIDENCE-BASED PREVENTION STRATEGIES TO**  
13 **REDUCE THE INCIDENCE OF DISEASE AND INJURY AND TO HELP INDIVIDUALS**  
14 **WITH FUNCTIONAL DISABILITY OR CHRONIC ILLNESSES TO MANAGE THEIR**  
15 **CONDITIONS; AND**

16                   **(6) PROMOTE SUCCESSFUL AGING BY FACILITATING PERSONAL**  
17 **INDEPENDENCE AND ENGAGING RESIDENTS IN CIVIC AND SOCIAL LIFE.**

18           **(C) THE COMMISSION SHALL RECOMMEND STATE INCENTIVES TO**  
19 **PROVIDE TO A COMMUNITY THAT SUBMITS A QUALIFYING COMPREHENSIVE**  
20 **EMPOWERMENT ZONES FOR SENIORS PLAN, INCLUDING REGULATORY AND**  
21 **FUNDING OPTIONS.**

22 **10-805.**

23           **(A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL PROVIDE STAFF SUPPORT TO THE**  
24 **COMMISSION.**

25           **(B) A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION**  
26 **AS A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION, BUT IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR**  
27 **EXPENSES UNDER THE STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED**  
28 **IN THE STATE BUDGET.**

29 **10-806.**

1           **THE COMMISSION SHALL REPORT ITS FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**  
 2 **TO THE GOVERNOR AND, SUBJECT TO § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT**  
 3 **ARTICLE, TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN AN INTERIM REPORT ON OR BEFORE**  
 4 **JANUARY 1, 2008, AND IN A FINAL REPORT ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2009.**

5 ~~10-807.~~

6           ~~SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING, FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR FOR~~  
 7 ~~WHICH APPROPRIATIONS ARE MADE AT LEAST \$50,000 SHALL BE USED TO FUND~~  
 8 ~~THE STATEWIDE EMPOWERMENT ZONES FOR SENIORS COMMISSION.~~

9           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
 10 ~~June~~ October 1, 2007. It shall remain effective for a period of 2 years and, at the end  
 11 of ~~May 31~~ September 30, 2009, with no further action required by the General  
 12 Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.