

CHAPTER 512

(House Bill 605)

AN ACT concerning

Statewide Empowerment Zones for Seniors Commission

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

BY adding to

Article – Human Services

Section 10–801 through ~~10–807~~ 10–806 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 8. Statewide Empowerment Zones for Seniors Commission”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(As enacted by Chapter 3 (S.B. 6) of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2007)

Preamble

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Article - Human Services

SUBTITLE 8. STATEWIDE EMPOWERMENT ZONES FOR SENIORS COMMISSION.

10-801.

THERE IS A STATEWIDE EMPOWERMENT ZONES FOR SENIORS COMMISSION.

10-802.

(A) THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

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

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

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

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

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

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

(7) THE SECRETARY OF PLANNING OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10-803.

(A) THE SECRETARY OF AGING SHALL:

(1) CHAIR THE COMMISSION;

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

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

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

10-804.

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

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

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

(2) INCLUDE AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE, AND APPROPRIATE HOUSING;

(3) INCLUDE SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY FEATURES AND SERVICES;

(4) PROVIDE ADEQUATE MOBILITY OPTIONS;

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

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

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

10-805.

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

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

10-806.

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

~~**10-807.**~~

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

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

Approved by the Governor, May 17, 2007.