

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 31
 Finance

(Senator Lenett)

Health and Government Operations

Maryland Communities for a Lifetime Commission

This emergency bill reestablishes the Statewide Empowerment Zones for Seniors Commission as the Maryland Communities for a Lifetime Commission. The commission is charged with assisting in the implementation of recommendations made in the Statewide Empowerment Zones for Seniors Commission report. The bill requires the commission to be funded with federal funds but prohibits federal funding under any program to assist naturally occurring retirement communities (NORCs) from being used to pay commission costs.

The bill terminates one year after enactment.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Federal fund expenditures increase by \$2,100 in FY 2010 and by \$10,400 in FY 2011 for contractual costs related to commission activities. The commission terminates in FY 2011, one year after enactment.

(in dollars)	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
FF Expenditure	2,100	10,400	0	0	0
Net Effect	(\$2,100)	(\$10,400)	\$0	\$0	\$0

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The Maryland Department of Aging (MDoA) must provide staff for the commission, whose members are not entitled to compensation but may receive reimbursement for expenses. Appointees to the commission are intended to be individuals who were formerly appointed to the Statewide Empowerment Zones for Seniors Commission and who were serving on the commission at the time of its termination.

Current Law: Chapters 511 and 512 of 2007 established the Statewide Empowerment Zone for Seniors Commission to recommend a plan to develop an empowerment zones for seniors program in Maryland. The program would direct financial and regulatory incentives to local communities that develop a qualifying comprehensive empowerment zones for seniors plan to enhance aging-in-place services and facilitate the personal independence and civic and social engagement of seniors in the community. The commission terminated on September 30, 2009.

Background: The Statewide Empowerment Zone for Seniors Commission's July 2009 report included a number of specific recommendations for program development. The commission's major recommendations include:

- introducing legislation to reestablish the commission to provide continuity in planning for a "Maryland Communities for a Lifetime (MCFAL)" (replacing the "Senior Empowerment Zone" terminology);
- introducing legislation to create a MCFAL program within MDoA, which should include specified elements;
- providing MCFAL incentives and assistance from MDoA, as well as other State and federal programs;
- requiring MDoA, in consultation with the State Interagency Committee on Aging services, to oversee MCFAL to achieve specified objectives; and
- conducting a review of existing State programs related to aging in place.

Additional commission recommendations include conducting a review of existing State programs related to aging in place, while others address increasing community-based care, affordable transportation, and wellness and prevention programs as well as expanding Maryland Access Point, civic engagement, and employment options for older adults.

State Expenditures: Federal fund expenditures increase by \$2,083 for contractual costs related to staffing the commission. This estimate assumes that commission activities are limited to drafting recommendations, coordinating with other State agencies, and

handling other administrative duties to assist in the implementation of recommendations made in the Statewide Empowerment Zones for Seniors Commission report. Legislative Services stresses that this estimate assumes that the commission does *not* play a large role in actually implementing the large number of recommendations made in the report, which include the creation of an MCFAL program within MDoA. Costs for creating and implementing such a program will be much greater.

Future years reflect continued support for the commission in fiscal 2011 and the termination of the commission before the end of fiscal 2011.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

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

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Analysis by: Sarah K. Volker

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510