

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 288

(Delegate Hubbard)

Health and Government Operations

Finance

Baby Boomer Initiative Council

This bill reestablishes the Baby Boomer Initiative Council, which is tasked with developing a plan for a communications tool that connects Maryland businesses, nonprofits, academic institutions, and State agencies to meet the demands (and take advantage) of the resources associated with Maryland's age wave. The University of Maryland's School of Public Health must provide staff for the council, which is required to make recommendations regarding policy initiatives for utilizing the baby boomer population as a source of social capital and as a way to address community needs. Beginning on December 31, 2013, the council must annually report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly.

The bill terminates May 31, 2015.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's requirements can be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The Governor is required to appoint the chair of the council, which must include representatives from the Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning in the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; the University of Maryland School of Public Health; United Seniors of Maryland; the American Association of Retired Persons; the State Chamber of Commerce; the Visionary Institute for Total Ageless Living, Inc.; a Maryland foundation; Maryland's Society of Human Resource Management State Council; the business community; and the departments of Aging, Business and Economic Development, and Health and Mental Hygiene.

The plan developed by the council under the bill must promote a means of communicating resources and strategies for living and aging well in Maryland – including work opportunities and resources, civic engagement programs, and livable community opportunities.

The bill defines “baby boomer” as an individual born between 1946 and 1964.

Current Law/Background: Chapters 506 and 507 of 2007 established the Baby Boomer Initiative Council, which terminated December 31, 2011. Although the council was required to report annually to the Governor and General Assembly on its findings and recommendations, the council issued only one report (in 2010). Chapters 506 and 507 assigned staffing responsibility to the University of Maryland, in conjunction with Johns Hopkins Institutions.

The council's 2010 report addressed health and workforce issues, civic engagement, lifelong learning, and community partnership models. The council's stated objectives for 2011 included (1) engaging the business community in proposed and/or ongoing boomer initiatives; (2) enlisting support from the Governor's Workforce Investment Board; (3) giving further study to the health and social benefits of boomer initiatives described in the 2010 report; (4) working with the University of Maryland and the Johns Hopkins University to determine the feasibility of studying the economic and social impact of older workers in Maryland; and (5) engaging in a more in-depth study of states' initiatives to develop models for community partnership and outreach.

According to the council's 2010 report, baby boomers represent 24% of the State's total population.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Business and Economic Development; Maryland Chamber of Commerce; Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Department of Aging; University System of Maryland; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 3, 2012
mlm/mwc Revised - House Third Reader - March 12, 2012

Analysis by: Jennifer A. Ellick

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