

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2013 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Bill 346

(Senator Kelley)

Finance

Health and Government Operations

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**Innovations in Aging Services Program - Commission on Aging - Responsibilities**

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This bill repeals the Innovations in Aging Services Advisory Council and transfers the council's advisory responsibilities to the Commission on Aging.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** The Maryland Department of Aging (MDoA) advises that the council is currently inactive (due to lack of available funding for the Innovations in Aging Services Program) and has not convened in several years. Thus, repealing the council and transferring the council's advisory responsibilities to an existing commission does not materially affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law/Background:** The Innovations in Aging Services Advisory Council is tasked to advise the Secretary of Aging on the Innovations in Aging Services Program, which provides competitive funding grants to design and test innovative ideas and programs for seniors, publicly disseminate the test results, and help meet the need for personnel trained to provide services to seniors in the State. With the council's advice, the Secretary of Aging must develop an annual program plan setting priorities for funding grants for innovative services to seniors and training personnel who provide services to seniors in the State. The council consists of the Secretary of Aging, the chair of the Commission on Aging (or the chair's designee), the Secretary of Health and Mental

Hygiene (or the Secretary's designee), two members of the General Assembly, five representatives of organizations providing services to seniors, two representatives of senior consumers of services to seniors, a director of an area agency, a representative of a Community for a Lifetime, and a representative of the University of Maryland Center on Aging. However, MDoA advises that the council is currently inactive and has not met in several years due to a lack of available funding for the program.

The Commission on Aging is tasked to review statewide programs and activities for seniors and report annually, to the Governor and the Secretary of Aging, on recommendations for legislative or other actions to strengthen those programs and activities. The commission consists of 2 members of the General Assembly (who may not vote) and 11 individuals (at least 7 of whom must be at least age 55) selected to reflect the State's geographic diversity and because of their interest in the needs of seniors.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 5, 2013  
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