

Aging Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6772

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF THE NEEDS OF SENIOR CITIZENS.

Vote Date: 2/18/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/6/2025

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Aging Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

It directs the Commission on Women, Children, seniors, Equity and Opportunity in consultation with the Dept. of Aging and Disability Services to study the needs of senior citizens in the state to be completed on or before January 1, 2026.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, Mr. Michael Werner, Lead Aging Policy Analyst: They believe that a study with such a large scope may need an appropriation and a longer timeline to be done effectively. They would ask for funds to pay for a fellowship from Connecticut based institution to assist in this work. They understand that additional resources may have an impact on the biennium budget.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Thames Valley Council for Community Action, Mr. Joshua Steele Kelly, Chief Executive Officer: They are supportive of all investments in plans to improve the availability of more resources for our state's senior services. We need to tend to the growing needs of our seniors that are experiencing greater financial pressures during these times.

Connecticut Assisted Living Association, Mr. Chris Carter, President: They **support** this proposal and suggest that the state's very successful Assisted Living subsidy programs adopted in the early 2000's should be studied for further expansion.

LeadingAge Connecticut, Ms. Mag Morelli, President: They **have no objections** to this legislation, and they would be happy to assist the Committee and the state with any studies.

AARP Connecticut, Ms. Natalie Shurtleff, Associate State Director, Advocacy and Community Outreach: They **support** the concepts behind this bill to better understand the needs of this changing senior population especially as it relates to transportation and housing.

Connecticut Association for Healthcare at Home, Ms. Tracy Wodatch, President and CEO: While they are **supportive** of the bill, they believe that until chronic underfunding of Medicaid reimbursements for our home and community-based services is adequately addressed, studies to determine the needs of the aging population would be too little and too late.

Home Matters Caregiving, Mr. Matthew Scher and Ms. Asha Scher, Owners: They support all efforts to improve senior care.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None submitted.

Reported by: Richard Ferrari, Assistant Clerk

Date: 2/21/25