

Human Services Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1158

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEPARTMENT ON

Title: AGING.

Vote Date: 3/5/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/20/2025

File No.: 153

Disclaimer: *The following JOINT FAVORABLE Report is prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and does not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose.*

SPONSORS OF BILL:

Human Services Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The bill proposes to establish a separate Department of Aging, splitting the current services from the Department of Aging and Disability and other agencies. The goal is to consolidate and align state agency functions to improve efficiency and services for both seniors and persons with disabilities.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Department of Aging and Disability Services, Amy Porter, Commissioner: Disagrees with the creation of a separate Department of Aging. The Commissioner cites past restructuring, age and disability trends, and federal oversight. According to the testimony, restructuring is disruptive and shifts the focus from critical work to the creation of the new agency. The author states that combining Aging and Disability Services aligns with national trends and is supported by data. The current department is stable and splitting could complicate federal funding/oversight.

Department of Aging and Disability Services, Mairead Painter, Long-Term Care Ombudsman: Opposes the creation of a separate Department of Aging. Suggests it would result in unnecessary disruption and fragmentation of services.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

None Expressed

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

[AgingCT, Maureen McIntyre, CEO, NCAAA](#): The testimony opposes the establishment of a State Department on Aging. The author cites the history of the former Department of Aging, which was dissolved, and its functions distributed across agencies. In 2018, the current structure of the conjoined Aging & Disability Services was implemented. The testimony states that "front-line service providers" should be allowed to continue "on the path that has been successful."

[Connecticut Academy of Physician Assistants \(ConnAPA\), Jason Prevelige, Chair, Legislative Committee](#): The testimony opposes the bill as written, citing specific language instances. For example, according to the testimony the bill neglects to include PA's at certain passages. The author calls for including PA's in the bill language.

Reported by: Breanne Clifton

Date: 3/31/2025