
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 124

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES' RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING MUNICIPAL AGENTS FOR AGING.

SUMMARY

By law, each municipality must appoint a municipal agent to help seniors learn about community resources and file for benefits, among other things. This bill makes several changes in the law on these agents. Specifically, it:

1. allows municipalities to jointly appoint agents, rather than requiring each municipality to have its own, by entering into a memorandum of understanding that may lay out terms (for example, sharing agent expenses);
2. prohibits appointing or reappointing anyone as a municipal agent who has a real or perceived conflict of interest and establishes a process to handle conflicts that happen after an agent is appointed; and
3. renames them "municipal agents for aging" (under current law they are called "municipal agents for elderly persons") and replaces the word "elderly" with "older adults" throughout.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

MUNICIPAL AGENTS' CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The bill requires anyone appointed as a municipal agent to be free of any real or perceived conflicts of interest that could interfere with his or her ability to give unbiased information, help, or referral services.

Under the bill, a conflict of interest exists if the agent, a business associated with the agent, or a member of the agent's immediate family

(spouse, parent, sibling, child, or child’s spouse) receive a financial or personal benefit. Other situations may also be conflicts of interest under the bill.

Certification

Beginning July 1, 2026, the bill requires each municipal agent to certify in writing that he or she is unaware of any conflict of interest or perceived conflicts of interest that could interfere with his or her ability to serve in this role, as described above. Agents must provide this certification when they are appointed or reappointed and submit it to the Department of Aging and Disability Services (ADS) commissioner in the way she sets out.

Conflicts That Arise

If a real or perceived conflict of interest happens after an agent has been appointed, the bill requires the agent to immediately report it to the appointing authority (the municipality or municipalities). It allows other interested parties to report an agent’s conflict of interest, or a perceived one, as well.

The bill requires the appointing authority to decide whether the real or perceived conflict of interest would be nullified by having another municipal agent or a municipal employee act instead of the potentially conflicted agent. In doing so, the appointing authority may consult with ADS.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Aging Committee

Joint Favorable
Yea 14 Nay 0 (03/05/2026)