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H.414

Introduced by Representatives Noyes of Wolcott, Bishop of Colchester, and

Eastes of Guilford

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Human services; aging; Vermont Commission on Aging

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to establish the
Vermont Commission on Aging.

An act relating to the Vermont Commission on Aging

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 33 V.S.A. chapter 74 is added to read:

CHAPTER 74. VERMONT COMMISSION ON AGING

§ 7401. DEFINITIONS

As used in this chapter:

(1) “Commission” means the Vermont Commission on Aging.

(2) “Director” means the Director of Aging.

§ 7402. VERMONT COMMISSION ON AGING; ESTABLISHED

There is established the Vermont Commission on Aging within the
Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living for the purposes of:

1 (1) advancing and monitoring public policy impacting Vermonters who
2 are aging, including Age Strong Vermont’s Multisector Plan on Aging and
3 Vermont’s State Plan on Aging and other policies or plans that may impact
4 Vermonters who are aging;

5 (2) educating the public and public officials about policies and programs
6 impacting Vermonters who are aging;

7 (3) advancing a culture of healthy, active, and engaged aging through
8 education and outreach; and

9 (4) building connections and collaborations across sectors to advance
10 the interests of Vermonters who are aging.

11 § 7403. MEMBERSHIP

12 (a) The Commission shall be composed of the following members:

13 (1) one representative serving on the House Committee on Human
14 Services, appointed by the Speaker of the House;

15 (2) one senator serving on the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare,
16 appointed by the Committee on Committees;

17 (3) the Commissioner of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living or
18 designee;

19 (4) the Commissioner of Health or designee;

20 (5) the Commissioner of Labor or designee;

21 (6) the Commissioner of Public Safety or designee;

1 (7) the Commissioner of Housing and Community Development;

2 (8) the Secretary of Transportation or designee;

3 (9) the Attorney General or designee;

4 (10) the Long-Term Care Ombudsman or designee;

5 (11) five members of the public who provide direct services to

6 Vermont's population of aging adults from diverse sectors, including a

7 representative of the business community, health care sector, municipal

8 government, advocacy organizations, and family caregivers, three of whom

9 shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House and two of whom shall be

10 appointed by the Committee on Committees; and

11 (12) five members who identify as Vermonters who are aging, from

12 diverse backgrounds, including individuals who are Black, Indigenous, and

13 Persons of Color, as well as with regard to socioeconomic status, geographic

14 location, gender, sexual identity, and disability status, three of whom shall be

15 appointed by the Committee on Committees and two of whom shall be

16 appointed by the Speaker of the House.

17 (b) Members of the Commission shall serve three-year staggered terms.

18 § 7404. MEETINGS

19 (a) The first meeting of each year shall be called by the representative of

20 the House Committee on Human Services.

1 (b) Annually, the Commission shall select a chair and vice chair from
2 among its members.

3 (c) A majority of the membership shall constitute a quorum.

4 § 7405. DUTIES

5 The duties of the Commission shall include:

6 (1) reviewing and recommending proposals for rules, legislation,
7 waivers, operations, and other policies and programs impacting Vermonters
8 who are aging;

9 (2) reviewing and providing input on State planning efforts across
10 agencies, including the Age Strong Vermont's Multisector Plan on Aging and
11 Vermont's State Plan on Aging and other relevant plans;

12 (3) encouraging the development of coordinated goals and objectives
13 across State government and coordinating programs, services, and facilities
14 among State departments, agencies, and offices, and nongovernment
15 organizations with regard to Vermonters who are aging;

16 (4) identifying and recommending ways in which the State can support
17 local and community efforts to promote aging well;

18 (5) identifying and recommending ways in which the State can partner
19 with nongovernmental organizations to promote aging well;

20 (6) promoting the skills, talents, and community contributions of
21 Vermonters who are aging;

- 1 (7) assisting in the implementation of the Age Strong Vermont's
2 Multisector Plan on Aging and Vermont's State Plan on Aging;
3 (8) assessing challenges for Vermonters who are aging;
4 (9) advocating solutions to provide better integration of Vermonters who
5 are aging into the social and economic systems of the State;
6 (10) soliciting the cooperation and help of groups concerned with the
7 well-being of Vermonters who are aging;
8 (11) requesting that State agencies, departments, and offices provide
9 information, statistics, and recommendations to the Commission, subject to
10 available resources; and
11 (12) accepting and soliciting funds, including any gifts, donations,
12 grants, or bequests or any federal funds, for any Commission-related purposes.

13 § 7406. DIRECTOR OF AGING

- 14 (a) Support for the work of the Commission shall be provided by the
15 Director of Aging, an individual who shall be qualified by reason of education,
16 expertise, and experience and who may have a professional degree in law,
17 social work, public health, or a related field. The Director shall serve on a full-
18 time basis and shall be exempt from classified service.
19 (b) The Commission shall recommend three qualified applicants for the
20 position of Director of Aging to the Governor for consideration. Subject to
21 confirmation by the Senate, the Governor shall appoint a Director within

1 45 days from among those applicants recommended by the Commission for a
2 term of four years. The appointment for Director shall be made without regard
3 to political affiliation and on the basis of integrity and demonstrated ability.

4 The Director shall hold office until reappointed or until a successor is
5 appointed.

6 (c) The Governor, upon a majority vote of the Commission, may remove
7 the Director for cause, which includes only neglect of duty, gross misconduct,
8 conviction of a crime, or inability to perform the Director's responsibilities.

9 The Speaker of the House and President Pro Tempore shall simultaneously
10 receive notification from the Governor of the Director's removal. Any
11 vacancy shall be filled by the appointment process set forth in subsection (b) of
12 this section for the remainder of the unexpired term.

13 (d) The Director shall appoint an Associate Director, whose duties shall be
14 performed at the direction of the Director.

15 (e) Upon any vacancy in the position of the Director, and until such time as
16 a replacement is appointed and confirmed, the Associate Director shall serve as
17 the acting Director. The acting Director shall have the full responsibilities of
18 the Director and shall be entitled to the same compensation as the outgoing
19 Director.

1 § 7407. DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING

2 Notwithstanding 2 V.S.A. § 20(d), the Director of Aging established
3 pursuant to section 7406 of this chapter shall submit to the General Assembly
4 and the Governor on or before December 1 of each year a report describing the
5 work and recommendations of the Commission, including:

6 (1) findings related to services for and assistance to Vermonters who are
7 aging;

8 (2) recommendations related to improving services for Vermonters who
9 are aging and their families; and

10 (3) data disaggregated by race, ethnicity, gender, geographic location,
11 disability status, and any other categories that the Commission deems
12 necessary.

13 Sec. 2. VERMONT COMMISSION ON AGING; APPROPRIATION

14 In fiscal year 2026, \$155,000.00 is appropriated to the Vermont
15 Commission on Aging for the purpose of hiring a Director of Aging and
16 Associate Director pursuant to 33 V.S.A. chapter 74, whose term shall begin
17 on January 1, 2026.

18 Sec. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE

19 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.