

H.800

Introduced by Representatives Cole of Hartford, Maguire of Rutland City,

McFaun of Barre Town, and McGill of Bridport

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Human services; older Vermonters; area agencies on aging

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to require a single, statewide area agency on aging for the State of Vermont and to revise the agency's duties to include a focus on coordinating with other service providers in delivering services and supports to older Vermonters.

An act relating to a single, statewide area agency on aging

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

\* \* \* Single Area Agency on Aging \* \* \*

Sec. 1. 33 V.S.A. § 6203 is amended to read:

§ 6203. DEFINITIONS

As used in this subchapter:

(1) "Area agency on aging" means ~~an~~ the organization designated by the State to develop and implement a comprehensive and coordinated system of services, supports, and protections for older Vermonters, family caregivers,

1 and kinship caregivers ~~within a defined planning and service area of~~ across the  
2 State.

3 \* \* \*

4 (13) “State Plan on Aging” means the plan required by the Older  
5 Americans Act that outlines the roles and responsibilities of the State and the  
6 area ~~agencies~~ agency on aging in administering and carrying out the Older  
7 Americans Act.

8 \* \* \*

9 Sec. 2. 33 V.S.A. § 6205 is amended to read:

10 § 6205. AREA ~~AGENCIES~~ AGENCY ON AGING; DUTIES

11 (a) ~~Consistent~~ Vermont shall have a single, statewide area agency on aging,  
12 which, consistent with the Older Americans Act and in consultation with local  
13 home- and community-based service providers, ~~each area agency on aging~~  
14 shall:

15 (1) develop and implement a comprehensive and coordinated system of  
16 services, supports, and protections for older Vermonters, family caregivers,  
17 and kinship caregivers ~~within the agency’s designated service area across~~  
18 Vermont, in alignment with the Vermont Action Plan for Aging Well  
19 developed pursuant to 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 156, Sec. 3;

1           (2) concentrate resources on direct services, including case  
2           management, and target services and supports to older Vermonters with the  
3           greatest economic and social need;

4           (3) perform regional needs assessments to identify existing resources  
5           and gaps;

6           (4) develop an area plan with goals, objectives, and performance  
7           measures, and a corresponding budget, and submit them to the State Unit on  
8           Aging for approval;

9           (5) ~~concentrate resources~~, build community partnerships; and enter into  
10          cooperate agreements with agencies and organizations for delivery of services,  
11          including coordinating with senior centers, Meals on Wheels programs, and  
12          community action agencies and collaborating with Vermont's parent-child  
13          centers in providing supports to Vermonters who are caring for their aging  
14          parents while raising their own children; the cooperate agreements shall  
15          require minimal administrative costs and include a clear accounting of the use  
16          of funds received pursuant to the Older Americans Act;

17          (6) coordinate services with the Agency of Human Services field offices  
18          to utilize existing administrative infrastructure and ensure that services and  
19          supports are available throughout the State;

20          (7) designate community focal points for colocation of supports and  
21          services for older Vermonters;

1           (8) notify relevant providers when applying for direct service waivers;

2           (9) develop and implement clear and understandable statewide  
3           eligibility criteria for home-delivered and congregate meals, in consultation  
4           with providers of these services, which shall include applicable funding  
5           formulas and analyses of meal costs; and

6           ~~(7)~~(10) conduct outreach activities to identify individuals eligible for  
7           assistance.

8           (b) In addition to the duties described in subsection (a) of this section, the  
9           area ~~agencies~~ agency on aging shall:

10           (1) promote the principles established in section 6202 of this subchapter  
11           across the ~~agencies'~~ agency's programs and shall collaborate with stakeholders  
12           to educate the public about the importance of each principle;

13           (2) promote collaboration with a network of service providers to provide  
14           a holistic approach to improving health outcomes for older Vermonters; ~~and~~

15           (3) use ~~their~~ existing area plans to facilitate awareness of aging issues,  
16           needs, and services and to promote the system principles expressed in section  
17           6202 of this subchapter;

18           (4) ensure that any marketing or fundraising materials issued by or on  
19           behalf of the agency recognize the efforts of the direct service providers with  
20           whom the agency contracts to deliver services; and

1           (5) report annually on or before January 15 to the Commissioner of  
2           Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living, the House Committee on Human  
3           Services, and the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare regarding the  
4           number of individuals who were enrolled in services and supports funded by  
5           the agency during the previous calendar year and the number of individuals  
6           who sought but were denied those services and supports.

7                               \* \* \* Conforming Revisions \* \* \*

8           Sec. 3. 3 V.S.A. § 3085b is amended to read:

9           § 3085b. COMMISSION ON ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND RELATED

10                           DISORDERS

11                               \* \* \*

12           (b) The Commission shall be composed of 21 members: the  
13           Commissioners of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living and of Health  
14           or designees, the Executive Director of Blueprint for Health or designee, one  
15           Senator chosen by the Senate Committee on Committees, one Representative  
16           chosen by the Speaker of the House, and 16 members appointed by the  
17           Governor. The members appointed by the Governor shall represent the  
18           following groups and organizations: physicians; social workers; hospitals and  
19           nursing home managers, including the administrators of the Vermont Veterans'  
20           Home; the clergy; adult day center providers; registered nurses; residential care  
21           home operators; family care providers; the home health agency; the legal

1 profession; mental health service providers; the area ~~agencies~~ agency on aging;  
2 University of Vermont's Center on Aging; the Support and Services at Home  
3 (SASH) program; and the Alzheimer's Association. The members appointed  
4 by the Governor shall have direct expertise or experience working with or  
5 caring for individuals impacted by Alzheimer's disease and related disorders,  
6 expertise in clinical and medical research on Alzheimer's disease and related  
7 disorders, or knowledge of health systems and policies to equitably address  
8 Alzheimer's disease and related disorders and shall represent, to the degree  
9 possible, the five regions of the State.

10 \* \* \*

11 Sec. 4. 14 V.S.A. § 3091 is amended to read:

12 § 3091. OFFICE OF PUBLIC GUARDIAN ESTABLISHED

13 \* \* \*

14 (b) The Commissioner ~~of the Department~~ of Disabilities, Aging, and  
15 Independent Living shall employ persons as public guardians to act as  
16 designees of the Office and to carry out the duties of the Office of Public  
17 Guardian. Public guardians shall be available for appointment in each ~~of the~~  
18 ~~planning and service areas served by the area agencies on aging~~ region of the  
19 State.

20 \* \* \*

## § 3095. STATISTICS TO BE MAINTAINED

(1) The number of wards for which the Office of Public Guardian was appointed during the year for each ~~planning service area served by the area agencies on aging~~ region of the State.

## § 6703. CONTRACT FOR SERVICES

\* \* \*

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