

ASSEMBLY, No. 5586

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 5, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

SYNOPSIS

Establishes permanent Age-Friendly State Advisory Council in DHS.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT establishing a permanent Age-Friendly State Advisory
2 Council in the Department of Human Services and
3 supplementing Title 30 of the Revised Statutes.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7
8 1. a. There is hereby established an Age-Friendly State
9 Advisory Council in the Department of Human Services. The
10 purpose of the council shall be to advise State Executive branch
11 departments and agencies on the development and implementation
12 of policies, services, and structures related to the physical and
13 social environment that are designed to support and enable older
14 people to live in security, enjoy good health, and continue to
15 participate fully in society.

16 b. The council shall consist of 15 members as follows:

17 (1) the Commissioners of Human Services, Community Affairs,
18 Health, and Transportation, or their designees, who shall serve ex
19 officio;

20 (2) seven public members to be appointed by the Governor, who
21 shall include representatives from county and municipal
22 governments or local authorities, community aging and inclusion
23 stakeholders, the business community, and experts from the higher
24 education community. The Governor may, as determined to be
25 appropriate, appoint additional public members to the council;

26 (3) two public members to be appointed by the President of the
27 Senate, who shall include one representative from the business
28 community and one representative from the higher education
29 community; and

30 (4) two public members to be appointed by the Speaker of the
31 General Assembly, who shall include one representative from
32 county and municipal governments or local authorities and one
33 representative from community aging and inclusion stakeholders.

34 c. Each public member shall serve for a term of three years,
35 except that of the 11 members first appointed, the first four
36 appointed shall serve three-year terms, the second four appointed
37 shall serve for two-year terms, and the third three appointed shall
38 serve for one-year terms. Each public member shall hold office for
39 the term of appointment and until their successor is appointed and
40 qualified.

41 d. Any vacancy in the membership of the council shall be filled
42 for the unexpired term in the manner provided for the original
43 appointment. Public members shall be eligible for reappointment to
44 the council.

45 e. The council shall organize as soon as possible after the
46 appointment of its members. The Commissioner of Human
47 Services shall serve as the chairperson. The council shall elect a
48 vice-chairperson from among its members, and a secretary who

1 need not be a member of the council. The council shall convene as
2 often as needed to fulfill its responsibilities and as requested by the
3 Governor or chairperson.

4 f. A majority of the membership of the council shall constitute
5 a quorum for the transaction of council business.

6 g. Members of the council shall serve without compensation,
7 but shall be compensated and reimbursed for actual expenses
8 reasonably incurred in the performance of their official duties, and
9 provided with office and meeting facilities required for the proper
10 conduct of the council's business.

11 h. The Department of Human Services shall provide such staff
12 support to the council as shall be necessary for the council to carry
13 out its duties.

14 i. The council shall be authorized to call upon any Executive
15 Branch department or agency to supply it with information or other
16 assistance available to such agency as the council determines to be
17 necessary to discharge its duties. Each Executive Branch
18 department and agency shall be hereby required, to the extent
19 consistent with law, to cooperate fully with the council within the
20 limits of its statutory authority and to furnish such assistance on as
21 timely a basis as is necessary to accomplish the duties of the
22 council.

23

24 2. a. The objectives of the council shall include, but not be
25 limited to, consideration of the following:

26 (1) Identifying opportunities for, and barriers to, the creation of
27 livable communities for people of all ages across the State;

28 (2) Recommending best practices for age-friendly employment
29 and civic participation among partners such as health and
30 community services, business leaders, local and elected officials,
31 advocacy organizations and volunteer groups, and innovative
32 public-private partnerships; and

33 (3) Promoting age-friendly community inclusion and equitable
34 outcomes by examining programs and practices to ensure that they
35 address disparities experienced by older adults of every race, color,
36 religion, gender, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or
37 expression, national origin, or ethnicity.

38 b. The council may consult with experts and other
39 knowledgeable individuals in the public or private sector on any
40 aspect of the objectives outlined in subsection a. of the section.

41

42 3. The Department of Human Services, informed by the advice
43 of the council, shall annually prepare and submit to the Governor,
44 and, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), to the
45 Legislature a report containing its findings and recommendations
46 for advancing age-friendly practices across the State. The
47 department shall also post the report on its Internet website in such
48 a location that is easily accessible to the public.

1 4. This act shall take effect upon the submission of the a
2 blueprint of best practices for advancing age-friendly practices to
3 the Governor by the Age-Friendly State Advisory Council,
4 established pursuant to Executive Order 227 of 2021.

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7 STATEMENT

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9 This bill establishes the Age-Friendly State Advisory Council in
10 the Department of Human Services. This bill is to take effect upon
11 the submission of the a blueprint of best practices for advancing age-
12 friendly practices to the Governor by the Age-Friendly State
13 Advisory Council, established pursuant to Executive Order 227 of
14 2021. In doing so, this bill establishes a permanent council within
15 the DHS following the completion of the Executive Order directive.

16 The purpose of the council is to advise State Executive branch
17 departments and agencies on the development and implementation
18 of policies, services, and structures related to the physical and
19 social environment that are designed to support and enable older
20 people to live in security, enjoy good health, and continue to
21 participate fully in society.

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23 consideration of the following:

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25 livable communities for people of all ages across the State;

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28 community services, business leaders, local and elected officials,
29 advocacy organizations and volunteer groups, and innovative
30 public-private partnerships; and

31 3) Promoting age-friendly community inclusion and equitable
32 outcomes by examining programs and practices to ensure that they
33 address disparities experienced by older adults of every race, color,
34 religion, gender, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or
35 expression, national origin, or ethnicity.

36 The council may consult with experts and other knowledgeable
37 individuals in the public or private sector on any aspect of these
38 objectives.

39 The council is required to consist of 15 members as follows:

40 1) the Commissioners of Human Services, Community Affairs,
41 Health, and Transportation, or their designees, who will serve ex
42 officio;

43 2) seven public members to be appointed by the Governor, who
44 are to include representatives from county and municipal
45 governments or local authorities, community aging and inclusion
46 stakeholders, the business community, and experts from the higher
47 education community. The Governor may, as determined to be
48 appropriate, appoint additional public members to the council;

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2 Senate, who are to include one representative from the business
3 community and one representative from the higher education
4 community; and

5 (4) two public members to be appointed by the Speaker of the
6 General Assembly, who are to include one representative from
7 county and municipal governments or local authorities and one
8 representative from community aging and inclusion stakeholders.

9 Each public member is to serve for a term of three years, except
10 that of the 11 members first appointed, the first four appointed shall
11 serve three-year terms, the second four appointed shall serve for
12 two-year terms, and the third three appointed shall serve for one-
13 year terms. Each public member is to hold office for the term of
14 appointment and until their successor is appointed and qualified.
15 Any vacancy in the membership of the council is to be filled for the
16 unexpired term in the manner provided for the original appointment,
17 and public members are eligible for reappointment to the council.

18 Under the bill, the council is directed to organize as soon as
19 possible after the appointment of its members and convene as often
20 as needed to fulfill its responsibilities and as requested by the
21 Governor or chairperson, with the Commissioner of Human
22 Services serving as the chairperson. The council is to elect a vice-
23 chairperson from among its members, and a secretary who need not
24 be a member of the council.

25 Members of the council are to serve without compensation, but
26 will be compensated and reimbursed for actual expenses reasonably
27 incurred in the performance of their official duties, and provided
28 with office and meeting facilities required for the proper conduct of
29 the council's business. The Department of Human Services is
30 directed to provide such staff support to the council as is be
31 necessary for the council to carry out its duties.

32 Furthermore, the council is authorized to call upon any Executive
33 Branch department or agency to supply it with information or other
34 assistance available to such agency as the council determines to be
35 necessary to discharge its duties.

36 The Department of Human Services, informed by the advice of
37 the council, is required to annually prepare and submit to the
38 Governor and to the Legislature a report containing its findings and
39 recommendations for advancing age-friendly practices across the
40 State, and to post this report on its Internet website in such a
41 location that is easily accessible to the public.