



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1547

H.P. 1152

House of Representatives, April 22, 2021

An Act To Promote Intergovernmental Coordination Regarding Age-friendly State Initiatives

Received by the Clerk of the House on April 20, 2021. Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative FAY of Raymond.
Cosponsored by Senator BAILEY of York and
Representatives: SHEEHAN of Biddeford, STOVER of Boothbay, TUELL of East Machias,
WHITE of Waterville, Senators: MAXMIN of Lincoln, MOORE of Washington.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§2-H is enacted to read:

2-H.

<u>Aging</u>	<u>Age-friendly State Steering Committee</u>	<u>Not Authorized</u>	<u>22 MRSA</u> <u>§5107-K</u>
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Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §5107-K is enacted to read:

§5107-K. Age-friendly State Steering Committee

1. Steering committee established. The Age-friendly State Steering Committee, as established in Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 2-H and referred to in this section as "the steering committee," is established to promote intergovernmental coordination to improve opportunities for and access to social engagement, communication and information, employment, financial security, health care and health coverage, housing, recreation and transportation for older residents of the State.

2. Membership. The steering committee consists of the following 11 members:

A. The commissioner or the commissioner's designee;

B. The Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry or the commissioner's designee;

C. The Commissioner of Transportation or the commissioner's designee;

D. The Commissioner of Labor or the commissioner's designee;

E. The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development or the commissioner's designee;

F. The Commissioner of Public Safety or the commissioner's designee;

G. The Commissioner of Education or the commissioner's designee;

H. A representative of the Governor;

I. The director of the Maine State Housing Authority or the director's designee;

J. A representative of the office for family independence within the department appointed by the commissioner; and

K. A representative of the office of aging and disability services within the department appointed by the commissioner.

3. Duties. The steering committee shall:

A. Promote coordinated intergovernmental collaboration in meeting the State's policy objectives related to older adults and aging in the State, including objectives designed to:

(1) Promote respect, equity and social engagement so people of all ages can actively participate in their community;

(2) Ensure access to information, community services, activities and programs;

(3) Expand workforce opportunities, retirement education and financial protection;

(4) Ensure affordable access to high-quality health coverage and health care and healthy aging and supportive services to maintain independence;

(5) Ensure the availability of housing opportunities and home modification programs;

(6) Promote natural resources management, outdoor spaces and recreation; and

(7) Increase the availability of safe and affordable transportation options and alternatives to reduce social isolation, support independent living and allow adults to age in their communities; and

B. Review and provide advice to the Governor, the Legislature and other officials of State Government on state efforts across state agencies directly related to older adults and aging in the State.

4. Steering committee invitees. The steering committee may invite members of a stakeholder advisory group that participated in the preparation of an age-friendly state plan to participate in steering committee meetings.

5. Staff support. The office of aging and disability services within the department shall provide primary staff support to the steering committee. State agencies shall provide additional staff support, which may include persons working as interns, as requested by the steering committee.

6. Funding. The steering committee may accept funding received as contributions, grants or appropriations from private and public sources to accomplish the duties of the steering committee.

7. Report. By November 1, 2023 and every 2 years thereafter, the steering committee shall submit a report on the steering committee's activities to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters.

SUMMARY

This bill establishes the Age-friendly State Steering Committee to promote intergovernmental coordination to improve opportunities for and access to social engagement, communication and information, employment, financial security, health care and health coverage, housing, recreation and transportation for older residents of the State.