

comprehensive empowerment zone for seniors plan; requiring the Department of Aging to staff the Commission; requiring the Commission to submit certain reports to the Governor and General Assembly on or before certain dates; providing that a member of the Commission may receive a certain reimbursement; ~~providing for a certain annual appropriation to the Commission~~; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Statewide Empowerment Zones for Seniors Commission.

BY adding to

Article – Human Services

Section 10-801 through ~~10-807~~ 10-806 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 8. Statewide Empowerment Zones for Seniors Commission”

Annotated Code of Maryland

(As enacted by Chapter 3 (S.B. 6) of the Acts of the General Assembly of 2007)

Preamble

WHEREAS, In the first two decades of the 21st century, the population of Marylanders over age 60 is expected to rise by 74%, to nearly 1.4 million, according to U.S. Census Bureau estimates; and

WHEREAS, Older adults overwhelmingly report that they want to grow old in their homes and communities, rather than in institutional settings; and

WHEREAS, Many older adults move to institutional facilities unwillingly and prematurely because they lack the resources to continue to live at home; and

WHEREAS, Providing home and community-based services that enable older adults to age in place has shown to be the most cost-effective model for aging; and

WHEREAS, Maryland is home to several examples of a new aging-in-place model called Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORC) Supportive Services Programs, which combine public, nonprofit, and private sector entities to provide a comprehensive array of housing, social, medical, and transportation services to help seniors age in place; and

WHEREAS, The AARP Public Policy Institute has defined a Livable Community for Seniors as one that has affordable and appropriate housing, supportive community features and services, and adequate mobility options, that when combined facilitate personal independence and the engagement of residents in civic and social life; and

WHEREAS, Developing a new aging-in-place model that combines the individual service focus of NORCs with the comprehensive neighborhood scope of