

52:270-28.1 et al.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST

NJSA 52:270-28.1 et al.
Laws of 1975 Chapter 36
Bill No. A2116
Sponsor(s) Codey & Others
Date Introduced September 30, 1974
Committee: Assembly State Gov't., Federal & Interstate Relations
Senate

Amended during passage Yes ~~No~~ Amendments during passage denoted by asterisks

Date of passage: Assembly February 24, 1975
Senate February 27, 1975

Date of approval March 13, 1975

Following statements are attached if available:

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Sponsor statement | Yes | No |
| Committee Statement: <u>Assembly</u> | Yes | No |
| <u>Senate</u> | Yes | No |
| Fiscal Note | Yes | No |
| Veto message | Yes | No |
| Message on signing | Yes | No |
| Following were printed: | | |
| Reports | Yes | No |
| Hearings | Yes | No |

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36
3-13-75

ASSEMBLY, No. 2116

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

INTRODUCED SEPTEMBER 30, 1974

By Assemblymen CODEY, BORNHEIMER, PATERO
and GALLO

Referred to Committee on State Government, Federal
and Interstate Relations

AN ACT to reconstitute the Division on Aging in the Department of Community Affairs, prescribing additional powers and duties of said division, amending P. L. 1957, c. 72, **and** supplementing Title 52 of the Revised Statutes ***[and making an appropriation].***

1 BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
2 *of New Jersey:*

1 1. The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

2 a. The rapid pace of modern life, the ever-upward spiral of in-
3 flation, the often-debilitating infirmities of advancing years, and the
4 change in family life combine to place many senior citizens of this
5 State in an unenviable position of poverty and dependency that
6 endangers their health, safety, and welfare.

7 b. Such senior citizens in particular, and all senior citizens in
8 general, need and deserve the attention, assistance, and protection
9 of the State.

10 c. To fulfill this responsibility, the government of the State
11 should have an appropriate and significant agency empowered to
12 serve those individuals effectively so that comprehensive programs
13 can be developed and coordinated on a Statewide basis to locate
14 and assist this segment of the population of this State.

1 2. The Division of the Aging, created in the Department of
2 Health pursuant to P. L. 1957, c. 72 (C. 26:1A-107 et seq.),
3 transferred to the Department of Community Affairs pursuant to
4 P. L. 1966, c. 293 (C. 52:27D-1 et seq.), and designated the Office
5 on Aging pursuant to the Reorganization Plan of the Department

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

6 of Community Affairs filed June 20, 1972, is hereby reconstituted
 7 in the Department of Community Affairs as the Division on Aging
 8 and continued with the same powers and duties as provided in P. L.
 9 1957, c. 72, as amended by P. L. 1966, c. 61. All functions, powers,
 10 and duties heretofore exercised by the Office on Aging are hereby
 11 transferred to the Division on Aging.

1 3. In addition to its already-prescribed powers and duties, the
 2 Division on Aging, upon consultation with the State Commission
 3 on Aging, shall:

4 a. Formulate a comprehensive, Statewide master plan which
 5 identifies the needs of the senior citizens in this State; recommends
 6 programs to locate and assist this segment of the State's popula-
 7 tion, especially those who are living in conditions hazardous to their
 8 physical health, are abused, neglected or destitute, or are unable to
 9 cope with their daily affairs and to provide themselves with
 10 minimal subsistence and living comforts; provides guidelines for
 11 the agencies concerned with senior citizens in the political sub-
 12 divisions of the State which seek State and Federal funds; and
 13 ***[coordinates]*** **suggests methods to coordinate** the services
 14 provided to senior citizens by departments and agencies of the
 15 State and by the political subdivisions thereof. Said master plan
 16 shall be submitted to the Governor and Legislature no later than
 16A 18 months following the enactment of this act.

17 b. Review annually and, if necessary, revise the Statewide master
 18 plan and submit a report to the Governor and the Legislature con-
 19 taining an evaluation of the preceding year's program (including
 20 the total number of senior citizens served, the types of problems
 21 encountered, the actions taken), the revisions recommended in the
 22 master plan, and the programs recommended for the next fiscal
 23 year.

1 4. In formulating the master plan and the subsequent annual
 2 reports, the division shall:

3 a. Conduct at least one public hearing;

4 b. Consult and cooperate with:

5 (1) Officials of departments and agencies of the State and of the
 6 counties and municipalities of this State having duties and respon-
 7 sibilities concerning senior citizens;

8 (2) Officials and representatives of the Federal Government, of
 9 neighboring states, and of interstate agencies on problems affecting
 10 the senior citizens of this State;

11 (3) Officials, practitioners, and representatives in the fields of
 12 health, medicine, and the social sciences;

13 (4) Persons, organizations, and groups, public or private,
 14 interested in or concerned with the senior citizens of the State; and
 15 c. Request and receive from any department, division, board,
 16 bureau, commission, or other agency of the State, or any political
 17 subdivision or public authority thereof, such assistance and data
 18 as may be necessary to enable the division to carry out its respon-
 19 sibilities under this act.

1 ***[5.** The Director of the Division on Aging shall establish the
 2 procedures and the schedule which the agencies concerned with
 3 senior citizens in the political subdivisions of the State shall follow
 4 in submitting proposals to the Division on Aging requiring State
 5 and Federal funds.]*

1 ***[6.]*** *5.* Section 3 of P. L. 1957, c. 72 (C. 26:1A-109) is
 2 amended to read as follows:

3 3. The members of the Commission on Aging **[and the director]**
 4 shall be appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent
 5 of the Senate. The members of the commission shall be selected
 6 from among the citizens of the State who have demonstrated
 7 interest in the problems of aging. There shall be two legislative
 8 ex-officio members of the commission, one appointed by the Presi-
 9 dent of the Senate and one appointed by the Speaker of the
 10 General Assembly. The legislative ex-officio members shall be
 11 appointed for their term of office. The director shall be an ex-officio
 12 member of the advisory commission **[and shall serve as its chair-**
 13 **man]**.

14 Three members of the commission shall be appointed for 1 year,
 15 three for 2 years and three for 3 years, and their successors shall
 16 be appointed for terms of 3 years. All members may holdover and
 17 serve on the commission after the expiration of their respective
 18 terms, until their respective successors are appointed and shall
 19 qualify. Vacancies occurring other than by expiration of term shall
 20 be filled for the unexpired term. *A chairman and other officers of*
 21 *the commission shall be elected for a term of 2 years by the mem-*
 22 *bers from among the members appointed by the Governor.*

23 *The Commission on Aging shall meet at regular intervals and at*
 24 *least ***[twice annually]*** *quarterly*. The times and places for the*
 25 *said meetings shall be fixed by the commission and special meetings*
 26 *mya be called by the chairman on not less than 10 days' written*
 27 *notice to each member. The commission may adopt bylaws for the*
 28 *regulations of its affairs.*

1 ***[7.** There is hereby appropriated \$100,000.00 to carry out the
 2 purposes of this act.]*

1 ***[8.]*** *6.* This act shall take effect immediately.

A 2116 (1974)
4

STATEMENT

Over one million New Jerseyans who once looked forward to enjoying their retirement years in comfort and security are instead finding themselves living on the brink of financial tragedy. Rising prices, spiralling inflation, and the change in family life have led many of New Jersey's elderly into an economic quagmire in which the struggle merely to keep a roof over their heads and food on their tables has become virtually insurmountable.

In New Jersey today approximately one in every 10 persons is over the age of 65. The population of persons of retirement age in New Jersey is fast outstripping the rate of general population growth. Within 10 years, it is predicted, 20% of all households in the State will be maintained by persons over the age of 65. Over 18% of all Jerseyans over 65 exist below the poverty level. Now is the time for comprehensive and responsible action by the Legislature.

This bill provides for the elevation of the Office on Aging in the Department of Community Affairs to a Division on Aging and for the formulation of a Statewide master plan, with subsequent annual reviews thereof, initiating, recommending and coordinating programs to provide assistance to senior citizens. It is the declared purpose of this bill to raise the level of dignity of the aged population to where their remaining years can be lived in a fulfillment equal to the benefits they have bestowed, the richness they have added, and the great part they have played in the life of our society and Nation.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

MARCH 13, 1975

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DICK CAMPBELL

Governor Brendan Byrne signed into law Thursday a bill reconstituting the Division on Aging in the State Department of Community Affairs.

The bill, A-2116, sponsored by Assemblyman Richard J. Codey, D-Essex, was signed by the Governor at a public ceremony at a meeting of the New Jersey Senior Citizens Council in the State Library.

"This bill restores the Division to the full status it deserves in dealing with the many problems facing our state's senior citizens," said Byrne.

The Governor noted that in recent years senior citizens have turned to the state more and more for help in solving their problems.

The bill also expands the scope of the Division by directing it to formulate a comprehensive, statewide master plan which identifies the needs of senior citizens, coordinates the activities of governmental agencies to meet those needs, and make recommendations to the Legislature for action.

The bill requires the master plan to be completed within 18 months. It also provides for an annual review and, if necessary, updating of the master plan and an annual report to the Governor on the previous year's programs.

The measure passed both the Senate and Assembly unanimously.

Byrne also signed into law a bill which broadens the state's civil rights law to include a prohibition against discrimination in obtaining credit.

The measure, S-259, sponsored by Senate President Frank J. Dodd, D-Essex, prohibits discrimination in obtaining credit for such reasons as race, creed, color, marital status or sex. It is aimed primarily at making credit more available to women.

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