

2014 -- H 7236

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LC003652  
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014

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A N A C T

RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT - ELDERLY AFFAIRS  
DEPARTMENT

Introduced By: Representatives Shekarchi, Ackerman, E Coderre, Naughton, and  
Williams

Date Introduced: January 30, 2014

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 42-66 of the General Laws entitled "Elderly Affairs Department" is  
2 hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

3 **42-66-18. Community senior services grant program. -- (a) Establishment and**  
4 **purpose. In recognition of the continued growth in the number of persons age sixty-five (65) and**  
5 **over living in the community, there is established in the division of elderly affairs in the**  
6 **department of human services, the community senior services grant program to provide financial**  
7 **assistance and incentives to local governments and nonprofit agencies to operate senior centers**  
8 **and other senior services programs that help older residents to remain living in the community.**  
9 **Such services include, but are not limited to, outreach, social services, health promotion, physical**  
10 **fitness, recreation, life-long learning, transportation assistance and caregiver support services for**  
11 **persons age sixty-five (65) and over.**

12 **(b) Appropriations. For fiscal year 2015, the total amount of funds appropriated for the**  
13 **community senior services grant program shall be that amount needed to award each municipality**  
14 **the sum of five dollars (\$5.00) per each non-institutionalized person age sixty-five (65) and over**  
15 **as reported by the 2010 U.S. Bureau of the Census or an amount equal to its fiscal year 2014 state**  
16 **senior services grant awarded by the division, whichever is greater, as its basic grant. In the event**  
17 **that the municipality does not directly operate local senior centers and programs, the division**  
18 **shall, in consultation with municipality's chief elected or appointed official or the official's**

1 designee, distribute and award the municipality's basic grant to community nonprofit agencies  
2 which are operating senior centers and/or senior programs. However, for fiscal year 2015 no  
3 municipal or nonprofit community senior center or senior program shall receive an award which  
4 is less than the amount of their fiscal year 2014 state grant from the division. For fiscal years  
5 2016 through 2020, the general assembly shall increase funding for the community senior  
6 services grant program by an amount needed to increase the minimum basic grant by one dollar  
7 (\$1.00) each year until the minimum basic grant reaches an amount of ten dollars (\$10.00) per  
8 each non-institutionalized person age sixty-five (65) and over within the municipality.

9 (c) Eligibility. To be eligible for the community senior services grant program a  
10 municipality or nonprofit agency must contribute an equal amount of cash or in-kind resources  
11 for senior program support that it provided in state fiscal year 2014 and submit to the division for  
12 its approval a plan detailing the services and/or programs to be provided with grant funds, how  
13 the proposed plan meets the needs of local seniors and how the local share match will be met. In  
14 addition, the grantee must demonstrate that there exists with the local senior center or  
15 municipality, or there are plans to establish, a local senior advisory committee whose membership  
16 shall include a majority of persons age sixty-five (65) and over. The purpose of the local senior  
17 advisory committee shall be to provide advice to local officials and members of the legislature  
18 whose districts lie within the municipality on the service needs and interests of persons age sixty-  
19 five (65) and over. In approving grant proposals, the division shall take into consideration how  
20 the spending plan addresses the municipality's comprehensive plan as it relates to services and  
21 programs for seniors and the goals and objectives of the state plan on aging as submitted to the  
22 federal administration on aging.

23 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF

A N A C T  
RELATING TO STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT - ELDERLY AFFAIRS  
DEPARTMENT

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1           This act would establish a community senior services grant program to provide financial  
2 assistance to municipalities and nonprofit organizations which operate senior centers and/or  
3 senior programs.

4           This act would take effect upon passage.

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