

2022 -- H 7613

LC005046

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL PROCEDURE -- CITIZENS COMMISSION FOR THE SAFETY
AND CARE OF THE ELDERLY

Introduced By: Representatives Messier, Casey, and Fellela

Date Introduced: March 02, 2022

Referred To: House Corporations

(Office of Healthy Aging)

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 12-1.4-2, 12-1.4-3, 12-1.4-4, 12-1.4-7, 12-1.4-9 and 12-1.4-10 of
2 the General Laws in Chapter 12-1.4 entitled "Citizens' Commission for the Safety and Care of the
3 Elderly" are hereby amended to read as follows:

4 **12-1.4-2. Creation.**

5 There is established within the ~~department of elderly affairs~~ office of healthy aging the
6 citizens' commission for the safety and care of the elderly.

7 **12-1.4-3. Purpose.**

8 The purpose of the commission shall be to act as a liaison between the legislature, public
9 safety officials, the office of healthy aging, and the older population of Rhode Island in the area of
10 crime against the elderly, injury and fire safety, and protective service options available to the
11 elderly. The commission shall also outline suggested responsibilities for and facilitate training
12 requirements of older adults, police and fire advocates.

13 **12-1.4-4. Membership.**

14 (a) The commission shall consist of ~~twenty-one (21)~~ twenty-two (22) members, ~~eight (8)~~
15 three (3) of whom shall be older ~~citizens~~ adults appointed by the speaker and ~~seven (7)~~ three (3) of
16 whom shall be older ~~citizens~~ adults appointed by the president of the senate. One whom shall be an
17 older adult appointed by the governor; all seven (7) of whom shall be appointed for a term of two
18 (2) years. ~~The speaker shall appoint three (3) members and the president of the senate shall appoint~~

1 ~~two (2) members for terms of three (3) years; the speaker shall appoint three (3) members and the~~
2 ~~president of the senate shall appoint two (2) members for terms of two (2) years; and the speaker~~
3 ~~shall appoint two (2) members and the president of the senate shall appoint three (3) members for~~
4 ~~a term of one year. These terms shall commence with the date of appointment and expire on the~~
5 ~~January 31 after the appointment corresponding with the number of years of the term to which~~
6 ~~appointed.~~ Appointments shall be made for terms of ~~three (3)~~ two (2) years commencing on
7 February 1, ~~in the year of appointment~~ 2022, and ending on January 31 in the ~~third~~ second year
8 after the appointment. Any vacancy among the members shall be filled by the appointing authority
9 for the remainder of the unexpired term.

10 (b) The remaining ~~six (6)~~ fifteen (15) members of the commission shall be the president of
11 the Police Chiefs' Association or his or her designee; the attorney general or his or her designee;
12 the director of ~~elderly affairs~~ the office of healthy aging or his or her designee; a representative of
13 the state police appointed by the superintendent of the state police, the president of the fire chief's
14 association, or his or her designee and the state fire marshal or his or her designee; and; up to nine
15 (9) representatives to be decided by the commission to include representatives of agencies and
16 organizations who work directly with older adults. Such members and organizations represented
17 may include, but not be limited to, individuals residing in elder housing and/or elder shelters,
18 medical providers, legal services, community organizations and senior centers. ~~all six (6)~~ All fifteen
19 (15) of whom shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years.

20 (c) The members of the commission shall meet ~~at the call of the speaker of the house~~ and
21 organize and shall select a chairperson from among themselves. Vacancies on the commission shall
22 be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

23 **12-1.4-7. Cooperation of departments.**

24 (a) All departments and agencies of the state shall furnish any advice and information,
25 documentary and otherwise, to the commission and its agents deemed necessary or desirable by the
26 commission to facilitate the purposes of this chapter.

27 (b) Each local police and fire chief shall designate at least one sworn police ~~officer~~
28 department representative or fire ~~fighter~~ department representative to serve as the department's
29 ~~"senior citizen police~~ older adult's safety advocate" to work as a liaison between the department
30 and the elderly community to help address elderly safety and protection issues.

31 **12-1.4-9. Reports to general assembly Reports to the office of healthy aging.**

32 The commission shall report its findings and recommendations regarding the improvement
33 of elder safety issues to the ~~general assembly~~ office of healthy aging on or before January 25 of
34 each year.

1 **12-1.4-10. Appropriation.**

2 ~~The sum~~ A minimum of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) shall be annually appropriated, out
3 of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, to carry out the purposes of this chapter;
4 and the state controller is authorized and directed to draw his or her orders upon the general
5 treasurer for the payment of that sum, or as much of that sum as may be deemed necessary, from
6 time to time, upon receipt by him or her of properly authenticated vouchers.

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

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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1 This act would amend several sections of law relating to safety and care for the elderly
2 including amending the composition of the citizens commission for the safety and care of the
3 elderly and requiring designated representatives within the police and fire departments to serve as
4 "older adults safety advocates."

5 This act would take effect upon passage.

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