



BILL SYNOPSIS

Committee: Economic and Community Development

Bill: 22-0254

Office of Aging – Independent Agency

Sponsor: Councilmembers Cohen and Middleton

Introduced: July 25, 2022

Purpose:

For the purpose of establishing an Office of Aging as an independent agency; defining certain terms; providing for the appointment of the Director of the Office; establishing duties of the Office; providing for the staff and budget of the Office; requiring the adoption of certain rules and regulations; requiring the Office to submit an annual report to the Mayor and City Council; establishing the Commission on Aging to advise and collaborate with the Office; providing for the appointment, structure, and governance of the Commission; requiring the Commission to submit an annual report to the Director; and requiring Commission members, the Director, and other staff of the Office to file financial disclosures under the Ethics Code.

Effective: The 30th day after the date it is enacted

Agency Reports

City Solicitor	Favorable
Board of Ethics	No Position
Commission on Aging and Retirement Education	<i>No report at this time</i>
Department of Health	<i>No report at this time</i>
Department of Finance	<i>No report at this time</i>

Analysis

Current Law

Article 8 – Ethics; Section 7-8(1); Baltimore City Code (Edition 2000)

Article 1 - Mayor, City Council, and Municipal Agencies; Sections 14-1 to 14-14, to be under the new subtitle designation, “Subtitle 14. Aging Services”; Baltimore City Code (Edition 2000)

Background

The Commission on Aging and Retirement Education (C.A.R.E) was established in 1966 to address problems faced by the elderly. According to the Baltimore City Code, C.A.R.E. was established with the intent of creating an agency to coordinate governmental programs and develop the public and private resources needed to enable the elderly to remain full participants in the community after retirement.

C.A.R.E. was charged with implementing a comprehensive approach to deal with matters of finance, organization, social service, education, housing, employment, leisure time activity, medical service, and transportation. C.A.R.E currently oversees multiple programs offering a variety of community resources. *(See attached “Summary of Services from the 2022 Community Resource Guide”)*

Bill 22-0254 would repeal the law governing C.A.R.E and create, in its place,

- A. Baltimore City Office of Aging, along with a new
- B. Baltimore City Commission on Aging,” which would assist the Office of Aging.

According to the Board of Ethics, because members of the newly created Office of Aging and Baltimore City Commission on Aging would be involved in the development of City policy and programs they would be required to disclose their financial interests. Also, according to the Office of the City Solicitor although the bill would authorize a variety of people to serve on the Board, the City cannot compel representatives of private entities to serve.

A new listing of powers and duties as well as rules, regulations and staffing for each new entity is outlined in Bill 22-0254.

Additional Information

Fiscal Note: Not Available

Information Source(s): Reporting Agencies, Bill 22-0254; *“Baltimore County Department of Aging; Baltimore City Health Department, Division of Aging and Baltimore County Commission on Disabilities - Community Resource Guide 2022”*

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