

Aging Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No: HB-5140 / [Bill Status](#) / [Public Hearing Testimony](#)

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF THE NEEDS OF SENIOR CITIZENS.

Vote Date: 3/5/2026

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/19/2026

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Aging Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

This bill requires the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity shall study the needs of seniors in the state to ensure the adequate allocation of resources.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE (IF APPLICABLE):

None applicable

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Mr. Michael Werner, Lead Aging Policy Analyst, Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity: They point out that any study with such a large scope may require an appropriation and a longer timeline to lead effectively. The Commission would ask for funds to pay for a fellowship from a Connecticut-based institution to assist them in this work.

Ms. Kathleen Holt, Healthcare Advocate, Office of the Healthcare Advocate: She **supports** the bill that requires the state to study the need of seniors in our state.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Ms. Mag Morelli, President, LeadingAge Connecticut and Rhode Island: She has no objection to the bill and would be happy to assist the state with this study.

Mr. Chris Carter, President, Connecticut Assisted Living Association: They **support** this proposal on the basis that the states successful Assisted Living subsidy programs previously adopted should be studied for further expansion.

Mr. Gannon Ling, Chief Policy & Public affairs officer, Operation Fuel: They **support** this study to identify the needs and mechanisms to ensure programs deliver essential services to our state's citizens and are ready to assist in any way we can.

Mr. Ben Wade, Senior VP Strategy and Marketing and Chief Strategy Officer, Operation Fuel: They offered testimony in **support** of this legislation. Given the aging population in their area, they believe planning to meet the health and social needs of seniors would be very beneficial, and for these reasons, we ask the committee to act favorably on this proposal.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

Ms. Sarah Dzialo, She is opposed to this bill. She believes that centralized studies waste scarce resources and lead to top-down solutions that often create more problems than they solve.

Reported by: Richard Ferrari, Assist. Clerk

Date: 3/9/26