

A bill for an act
relating to human services; specifying criteria for communities for a lifetime;
requiring the Minnesota Board on Aging to study and report on communities for
a lifetime; amending Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 256.975, by adding a
subdivision.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 256.975, is amended by adding a
subdivision to read:

Subd. 10. **Communities for a lifetime.** (a) It is the policy of the state of Minnesota
to respect and value the past, current, and future contributions to society by our senior
residents. Further, the state of Minnesota recognizes the ongoing importance of seniors to
the state's economic development. In anticipation of the extensive growth in the number
of senior residents who will reside in Minnesota and in anticipation of their increasing
life expectancies, it is the policy of the state of Minnesota to develop communities for
a lifetime with the capacity to offer a welcoming environment to these senior residents,
recognizing them as assets to our state.

(b) For purposes of this subdivision, "communities for a lifetime" means
partnerships of small cities, counties, municipalities, statutory or home rule charter cities,
or towns whose citizens seek to affirmatively extend to persons 65 years of age and
older the opportunities, supports, and services which will enable them to continue to be
contributing, civically engaged residents.

(c) The opportunities extended within a reasonable distance to senior residents by
communities for a lifetime must include, but not be limited to:

(1) the opportunity to contribute time and talents through volunteer community
service;

(2) the opportunity to participate in the paid workforce, with flexibility of hours and scheduling;

(3) the opportunity for socializing, recreation, and wellness activities, including both physical exercise and mental stimulation;

(4) the opportunity to "age in place" and choose among a variety of affordable, accessible housing options, including single-family housing, independent congregate senior housing, and senior housing with services;

(5) the opportunity to access quality long-term care in the setting of the senior's own choice; and

(6) the opportunity for community-wide mobility and to access public transportation, including door-to-door assistance and weekend and evening access.

(d) Communities for a lifetime must demonstrate the availability of supports and services for senior residents that include, but are not limited to:

(1) an array of home and community-based services to support seniors' options to remain in an independent living setting as they age and become more frail;

(2) access to contemporary remote medical technology for cost-effective home-based monitoring of medical conditions;

(3) access to nutrition programs, including congregate meal and home-delivered meal opportunities;

(4) access to a comprehensive caregiver support system for family members and volunteer caregivers, including:

(i) technological support for caregivers remaining in the paid workforce to manage caregiver responsibilities effectively; and

(ii) respite care that offers temporary substitute care and supervision for frail seniors;

(5) personal assistance in accessing services and supports, and in seeking financing for these services and supports;

(6) high-quality assisted living facilities within a senior's geographic setting of choice;

(7) high-quality nursing care facilities within a senior's geographic setting of choice;

and

(8) the protection offered to vulnerable seniors by a publicly operated adult protective service.

(e) Communities for a lifetime must also:

(1) establish an ongoing local commission to advise the community for a lifetime on its provision of the opportunities, services, and supports identified in paragraphs (c) and (d);

3.1 (2) offer training and learning opportunities for businesses, civic groups, fire and
3.2 police personnel, and others frequently interacting with seniors on appropriate methods
3.3 of interacting with seniors; and

3.4 (3) incorporate into its local plan, developed in accordance with sections 366.10,
3.5 394.232, and 462.353, elements that address the impact of the forecast change in
3.6 population age structure on land use, housing, public facilities, transportation, capital
3.7 improvement, and other areas addressed by local plans; provisions addressing the
3.8 availability of the opportunities, supports, and services identified in paragraphs (c) and
3.9 (d); and strategies to develop physical infrastructure responsive to the needs of the
3.10 projected population.

3.11 (f) In implementing this subdivision, the Minnesota Board on Aging shall:

3.12 (1) consult with, and when appropriate work through, the area agencies on aging;

3.13 (2) consult with the commissioners of human services, health, and employment and
3.14 economic development, and the League of Minnesota Cities and other organizations
3.15 representing local units of government; and

3.16 (3) review models of senior-friendly community initiatives of other states and
3.17 organizations.

3.18 The board shall report recommendations for a process for communities to request
3.19 and receive the designation of community for a lifetime, along with comments and
3.20 resources necessary to implement communities for a lifetime, to the legislature by
3.21 February 28, 2010.