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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. 1971

02/20/2023 Authored by Kozlowski, Reyer, Hicks, Hornstein, Tabke and others
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on State and Local Government Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to state government; establishing the Age-Friendly Minnesota Council;
1.3 requiring a report; appropriating money; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota
1.4 Statutes, chapter 15.

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

1.6 Section 1. [15.0147] AGE-FRIENDLY MINNESOTA COUNCIL.

1.7 Subdivision 1. Age-Friendly Minnesota Council established. The Age-Friendly
1.8 Minnesota Council is created. The purpose of the Age-Friendly Minnesota Council is to
1.9 continue the work of the Governor's Council on an Age-Friendly Minnesota, established in
1.10 Executive Order 19-38 and extended by Laws 2021, chapter 30, article 12, section 5, as
1.11 amended in Laws 2022, chapter 7, article 17, section 2, by advising Tribal, state, and local
1.12 government agencies and private organizations on the establishment and maintenance of
1.13 age-friendly communities. The infrastructure of the Age-Friendly Minnesota Council
1.14 established in this section shall be autonomous and independent.

1.15 Subd. 2. Membership. (a) The Age-Friendly Minnesota Council shall consist of no
1.16 more than 25 voting members.

1.17 (b) The membership of the council must include:

1.18 (1) one member representing a Minnesota Tribal Nation appointed by the Indian Affairs
1.19 Council under section 3.922;

1.20 (2) a minimum of four members appointed by the governor representing age-friendly
1.21 cities and counties, age-friendly universities, age-friendly health systems, or age-friendly
1.22 public health systems; and

2.1 (3) up to ten members appointed by the governor representing rural areas outside of the
 2.2 seven-county metropolitan area, the business community, nonprofit organizations, health
 2.3 care providers, stakeholders in broadband, and the public at large.

2.4 (c) In addition to the members in paragraph (b), each of the following state agencies
 2.5 must appoint an age-friendly Minnesota lead who shall actively participate as a voting
 2.6 member of the council:

2.7 (1) Board on Aging;

2.8 (2) Department of Commerce;

2.9 (3) Department of Employment and Economic Development;

2.10 (4) Department of Health;

2.11 (5) Housing and Finance Agency;

2.12 (6) Department of Human Services;

2.13 (7) Department of Transportation;

2.14 (8) Department of Veterans Affairs;

2.15 (9) Metropolitan Council; and

2.16 (10) State Arts Board.

2.17 (d) Other state agencies may participate as nonvoting members.

2.18 Subd. 3. **Initial membership terms.** Except for members appointed by the Indian Affairs
 2.19 Council, the appropriate appointing authority must make initial appointments by October
 2.20 1, 2023. Initial appointments shall serve staggered terms of four years or as determined by
 2.21 the secretary of state. Members may not serve more than two consecutive terms.

2.22 Subd. 4. **Compensation.** Members shall be compensated as provided in section 15.0575,
 2.23 subdivision 3.

2.24 Subd. 5. **Administration.** (a) The council may employ or contract with an executive
 2.25 director as the council deems necessary to perform the council's duties. The director must
 2.26 have knowledge and demonstrated experience in aging, age-friendly work, and proficiency
 2.27 in the management and administration of programs relating to these fields.

2.28 (b) The Minnesota Board on Aging appointee shall serve at all times as the chair of the
 2.29 Age-Friendly Minnesota Council.

3.1 Subd. 6. Meetings. Meetings of the council are subject to chapter 13D. The council shall
3.2 meet publicly no less than six times a year to conduct the duties of the council in subdivision
3.3 7.

3.4 Subd. 7. Domains. An age-friendly states and communities framework proposes nine
3.5 domains to identify and address barriers to and opportunities for the well-being and
3.6 participation of older Minnesotans. Domains are specified to guide the priorities and strategies
3.7 of the council and work to advance age-friendly policies and prioritize health, economic,
3.8 and social considerations to mitigate and eliminate disparities experienced by older
3.9 Minnesotans and their families. The council shall work to advance age-friendly policies.
3.10 Domains include but are not limited to:

- 3.11 (1) health and social service coordination;
3.12 (2) transportation access;
3.13 (3) safe, affordable places to live;
3.14 (4) reducing social isolation and improving wellness;
3.15 (5) combating ageism and racism against older adults;
3.16 (6) accessible outdoor spaces and buildings;
3.17 (7) communication and information technology access;
3.18 (8) opportunities to stay engaged and economically productive;
3.19 (9) emergency preparedness policies; and
3.20 (10) other domains identified by the council.

3.21 Subd. 8. Duties of the council. The council shall carry out the following duties:

- 3.22 (1) maintain enrollment in a nationally recognized network of age-friendly states and
3.23 communities;
3.24 (2) develop a strategic blueprint for an age-friendly Minnesota and implement the cycle
3.25 of assessment and continuous improvement developed by a nationally recognized network
3.26 of age-friendly states. The council shall complete an initial community assessment and
3.27 age-friendly action planning efforts by March 31, 2023. The council must complete the first
3.28 cycle of assessment and continuous improvement by March 31, 2027;
3.29 (3) supplement, inform, and advise spending and policies across multiple state agencies
3.30 to ensure state agencies use an age-friendly lens with regards to responding to demographic
3.31 shifts;

4.1 (4) develop relationships with the philanthropic community, nonprofit groups, and
 4.2 informal groups to explore additional funding to support the council's work;

4.3 (5) implement community and technical assistance grant programs. The grant programs
 4.4 must be designed to help communities, including cities, counties, and other municipalities,
 4.5 nonprofit organizations, health systems, universities, collaborative community efforts,
 4.6 informal groups, and other such entities build capacity for age-friendly initiatives and
 4.7 activities, including but not limited to needs assessments, action planning, implementation,
 4.8 and evaluation. Funded grant proposals must emphasize diversity, equity, inclusion, and
 4.9 access;

4.10 (6) support the growth and expansion of work with and engagement of older adults and
 4.11 their families across the state; and

4.12 (7) inform assessment, planning, and implementation of age-friendly initiatives across
 4.13 various communities, particularly those that experience disenfranchisement and lack access
 4.14 to resources and support.

4.15 Subd. 9. **Age-friendly dashboard.** The council shall work to inventory and identify
 4.16 metrics for an all-state-agencies dashboard of age-friendly policies and practices being
 4.17 utilized across state government agencies. The dashboard may assess current programs and
 4.18 policies to inform state agencies' progress toward an age-friendly Minnesota.

4.19 Subd. 10. **Central inventory of reports and analyses on aging.** Within available
 4.20 appropriations and in collaboration with other organizations, the council shall work to
 4.21 establish a central inventory of data reports and analyses, including readily available learnings
 4.22 and lessons, to help policymakers in state, local, and Tribal government agencies,
 4.23 stakeholders, and the public to identify information and experts on age-related topics to
 4.24 advance state and local age-friendly initiatives.

4.25 Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATION; AGE-FRIENDLY MINNESOTA COUNCIL.**

4.26 \$..... in fiscal year 2024 and \$..... in fiscal year 2025 are appropriated from the general
 4.27 fund to the Age-Friendly Minnesota Council for operating expenses.