

Date of Hearing: May 5, 2015

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON AGING AND LONG-TERM CARE

Cheryl Brown, Chair

AJR 8 (Brown) – As Amended April 15, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Older Americans Act of 1965.

**SUMMARY:** Recognizes the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Older Americans Act of 1965, affirms support thereof, and encourages the reauthorization of the Act with adequate funding to reflect the growing population that benefits from its services. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Finds that the State Legislature acknowledges the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Older Americans Act (OAA);
- 2) Acknowledges the OAA's influence upon the improved economic, well-being and improved quality of life for elders in the state;
- 3) Highlights the establishment of the "aging network," which consists of local area agencies on aging and their partner community-based organizations and lead by the Administration on Aging (AoA) in Washington D.C.;
- 4) Acknowledges the OAA's focus upon elders in greatest economic and/or social need by targeting their needs and services that keep them independent longer, offer employment opportunities to low income older adults, as well as targeted research, education and training;
- 5) Acknowledges the special attention to Native Populations, while paying tribute to the generation of new beneficiaries, also known as "baby-boomers," and the influences they will create;
- 6) Resolves that the Legislature memorialize the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the implementation of the OAA, commends the many contributions of it, supports the reauthorization of the OAA with adequate funding; and,
- 7) Directs the Chief Clerk to distribute copies of AJR 8 to the President and Vice President, the Speaker of the House, and the Majority Leader of the Senate, and to every member of the California Legislative Delegation to Washington D.C.

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) Establishes the Older Americans Act of 1965 (as amended in 2006, Public Law 109-365) in order to preserve the inherent dignity of older individuals and assure equal opportunity to the full and free enjoyment of, among other things:
  - a. adequate income in retirement;
  - b. the best possible physical and mental health which science can make available and without regard to economic status;
  - c. obtaining and maintaining suitable housing at costs which older citizens can afford;
  - d. full restorative services for those who require institutional care;

- e. a comprehensive array of community-based, long-term care services adequate to appropriately sustain older people in their communities and in their homes, including:
  - i. support to family members and other persons providing voluntary care to older individuals needing long-term care services;
  - f. retirement in health, honor, and dignity, after years of contribution to the economy;
  - g. participation in and contribution to meaningful activity within the widest range of civic, cultural, educational and training, and recreational opportunities;
  - h. freedom, independence, and the free exercise of individual initiative in planning and managing their own lives;
  - i. full participation in the planning and operation of community-based services and programs provided for their benefit; and,
  - j. protection against abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
- 2) Existing state law establishes the Mello-Granlund Older Californians Act (OCA) that sets forth the state's commitment to its older population and other populations served by the programs administered by the California Department of Aging (CDA), and that older individuals constitute a fundamental resource of the state that previously has been undervalued and poorly utilized, and encourages that ways must be found to enable older individuals to apply their competence, wisdom, and experience for the benefit of all Californians. The Act acknowledges that there is a continuing increase in the number of older individuals in proportion to the total population, that:
  - a. By the year 2010, the first influx of baby boomers will constitute 29.2 percent of California's total population over 60 years of age. By the year 2020, baby boomers will constitute 70.2 percent of California's total population over 60 years of age, that;
  - b. By the year 2020, older individuals will represent 21 percent of California's total population, that;
  - c. While the number of persons over 60 years of age is increasing rapidly, the number of older women, minorities and persons over the age of 75 are increasing at an even greater rate, that;
  - d. Among persons over 75 years of age, there is a higher incidence of functional disabilities, that;
  - e. The social and health problems of the older individual are further compounded by inaccessibility to existing services and by the unavailability of a complete range of services, that;
  - f. Services to older individuals are administered by many different agencies and departments at both the state and local level, that;
  - g. The planning and delivery of these services is not carried out with any degree of coordination among those agencies, that;
  - h. Enhanced coordination reduces duplication, eliminates inefficiencies, and enhances service delivery for the consumer, that;
  - i. The ability of the constantly increasing number of aged in the state to maintain self-sufficiency and personal well-being with the dignity to which their years of labor

entitle them and to realize their maximum potential as creative and productive individuals are matters of profound importance and concern for all of the people of this state., and that;

- j. The OCA specifies that CDA shall ensure that programs and services provided through the Older Americans Act and the Older Californians Act in each planning and service area are available to all older adults regardless of physical or mental disabilities, language barriers, cultural or social isolation, including that caused by actual or perceived racial and ethnic status, ancestry, national origin, religion, sex, gender, identity, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, or by any other basis set forth in Section 12921 of the Government Code, or by association with a person or persons with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics, that restrict an individual's ability to perform normal daily tasks or that threaten his or her capacity to live independently.

- 3) By Presidential Proclamation, designates May as Older American's Month, and establishes a theme for 2015; "Get into the Act" to assure the benefits of community living become a reality for more "senior" Americans, and to promote healthy aging, increased community involvement, and to tackle important issues like the prevention of elder abuse.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** This measure has not yet been analyzed by a fiscal committee.

**COMMENTS:**

Author's Statement: "The 50th anniversary of the Older Americans Act (OAA) of 1965 warrants formal recognition by the legislative body of California. AJR 8 would affirm the important role the OAA has played in the lives of older Americans throughout our nation and in our state. It will also memorialize Congress to reauthorize the Act.

"Congress passed the Older Americans Act (OAA) in 1965 in response to concerns by policymakers about a lack of community social services for older persons. The original legislation established authority for grants to States for community planning and social services, research and development projects, and personnel training in the field of aging. The law also established the Administration on Aging (AoA) to administer the newly created grant programs and to serve as the Federal focal point on matters concerning older persons.

"During the past 50 years, the OAA has been instrumental in contributing to the well-being of millions of older Americans. More importantly, the Act has improved the quality of life for some 4.5 million older Californians and has helped the neediest of our seniors; however, over the past ten years state funding for senior programs within the OAA has been slashed.

"Since 2004, approximately \$25 million has been cut, resulting in the elimination or dramatic reduction of critical community-based programs and services provided through the state's Area Agencies on Aging, including the Alzheimer's Day Care Resource Centers, Senior Companion, Linkages, Respite Care, Brown Bag, Caregiver Resource Centers, and the Long-term Care Ombudsman.

"The state's older population is on the rise. The AoA projects that, in 2030, there will be approximately 72.1 million older persons in the United States; which is more than twice the

number of seniors that were counted in 2000. People aged 65 or older represented 12.4% of the population in the year 2000 but are expected to be 19% of the population by 2030. The Older Americans Act is needed more than ever in order to bring attention to senior issues and prepare for the ‘silver tsunami’.”

**Background:** The author underscores the current demographic realities for the state of California which indicates that for about the next 14 years, roughly 1,000 people in the state will turn 65 each day. Life-spans continue to be extended, and health care advances continue to reduce risk of conditions that once contributed to shorter life-spans. The 65+ cohort is currently growing at a rate about three-times that of those under age 65. This phenomenon will continue until the 65+ population reaches about 24% of the total population around 2050. Today, the 65+ population represents about 12.5% of the population, and stands at about 5.1 million people. Within 10 years, those over the age of 65 will represent about 18% of the population. Supporting the needs of elders during the next several decades remains a concern. Nonetheless, numerous reports, hearings, and legislative proposals have pointed out the inadequacies of California’s patchwork of long-term care (LTC) programs, services, and policies to support a growing cohort of older people. The combination of fragmented jurisdictions which places the programs that seniors need under the direction of multiple administrators all of whom operate under separate authorities and mandates, coupled with resource constraints, and programmatic overlap, diffused accountability, creates the impression that a great deal of work is being performed, but the degree to which the same amount of work could be done with focused leadership, coordination and accountability remains untested. Absent substantial reform of the state’s aging and long-term care system, the costs of over-institutionalization, lost productivity, and degraded quality of life will remain the hallmark of California’s efforts to serve older people.

The state’s economic recovery offers an opportunity to address an unanswered call to action to build an LTC infrastructure that meets the needs of aging and disabled adults, as well as those who care for them. The data are clear that a crisis is potentially eminent: adults age 65 and older currently comprise 12.5% of California’s population, with projections showing that almost 20% of the population will be over age 65 in 2030.

**Previous Legislation:**

SCR 84 (Alquist/Resolution Chapter 54, Statutes of 2006). This resolution recognized the month of May 2006 as Older Americans Month.

ACR 36 (Wayne, et.al./Resolution Chapter 17, Statutes of 1999). This resolution declared the month of May 1999 as Older Californians Month.

ACR 192 (Zettle, et. al./Resolution Chapter 75, Statutes of 2002) Declared the month of May 2002 as Elder Abuse Prevention Month in California.

ACR 94 (Berg, et.al./Resolution Chapter 47, Statutes of 2003). This resolution declared the month of May 2003 as Older Americans Month.

ACR 226 (Berg/Resolution Chapter 86, Statutes of 2004). This resolution declared the month of May 2004 as Older Americans Month.

ACR 111 (Huffman, Berg/Resolution Chapter 34, Statutes of 2008) Recognized the month of May 2008 as Senior Volunteer Month to honor the contributions of California senior volunteers.

ACR 78 (Galgiani/Resolution Chapter 116, Statutes of 2011). This resolution declared the month of November 2011 as California Senior Center Month

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

California Association of Area Agencies on Aging (C4A) – Co-Sponsor  
California Association of Public Authorities for IHSS (CAPA) – Co-Sponsor  
American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)  
California Assisted Living Association (CALA)  
California Long-Term Care Ombudsman Association (CLTCOA)  
California PACE Association (CalPACE)  
California School Employees Association (CSEA)

**Opposition**

None on file.

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