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State of Minnesota HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

H. F. No. **2646**

03/24/2025

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Human Services Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to human services; converting the Governor's Council on an Age-Friendly
1.3 Minnesota into the Age-Friendly Minnesota Council; codifying existing grants;
1.4 appropriating money; amending Laws 2021, chapter 30, article 12, section 5, as
1.5 amended; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 256.

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

1.7 Section 1. **[256.9746] AGE-FRIENDLY MINNESOTA COUNCIL.**

1.8 Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** The Age-Friendly Minnesota Council is established to
1.9 coordinate work across sectors, including state government, nonprofits, communities,
1.10 businesses, and others, to ensure the state is an age-friendly state.

1.11 Subd. 2. **Membership.** (a) The council consists of 15 voting members.

1.12 (b) Each of the following commissioners and multimember state agencies must designate
1.13 an Age-Friendly Minnesota lead and appoint that designee to serve as a council member:

1.14 (1) the Minnesota Board on Aging;

1.15 (2) the commissioner of commerce;

1.16 (3) the commissioner of employment and economic development;

1.17 (4) the commissioner of health;

1.18 (5) the commissioner of housing;

1.19 (6) the commissioner of human services;

1.20 (7) the commissioner of transportation;

1.21 (8) the commissioner of veterans affairs; and

2.1 (9) the Metropolitan Council.

2.2 (c) The governor shall appoint six additional public members to represent older adults
2.3 in communities experiencing disparities, direct service caregivers, businesses, experts on
2.4 aging, local governments, and Tribal communities. The appointment, terms, compensation,
2.5 and removal of public members shall be as provided in section 15.059.

2.6 (d) Other state agencies and boards may participate on the council in a nonvoting capacity.

2.7 Subd. 3. **Chairperson; executive committee.** (a) The council shall elect a chairperson
2.8 and other officers as it deems necessary and in accordance with the council's operating
2.9 procedures.

2.10 (b) The council shall be governed by an executive committee elected by the members
2.11 of the council. One member of the executive committee must be the council chairperson.

2.12 (c) The executive committee may appoint additional subcommittees and work groups
2.13 as necessary to fulfill the duties of the council.

2.14 Subd. 4. **Meetings.** (a) The council shall meet at the call of the chairperson or at the
2.15 request of a majority of council members. The council must meet at least quarterly. Meetings
2.16 of the council are subject to section 13D.01, and notice of its meetings is governed by section
2.17 13D.04.

2.18 (b) Notwithstanding section 13D.01, the council may conduct a meeting of its members
2.19 by telephone or other electronic means so long as:

2.20 (1) all members of the council participating in the meeting, wherever their physical
2.21 location, can hear one another and can hear all discussion and testimony;

2.22 (2) members of the public present at the regular meeting location of the council can hear
2.23 all discussion and all votes of members of the council and participate in testimony;

2.24 (3) at least one member of the council is physically present at the regular meeting location;
2.25 and

2.26 (4) each member's vote on each issue is identified and recorded by a roll call.

2.27 Each member of the council participating in a meeting by telephone or other electronic
2.28 means is considered present at the meeting for the purposes of determining a quorum and
2.29 participating in all proceedings. If telephone or another electronic means is used to conduct
2.30 a meeting, the council, to the extent practicable, shall allow a person to monitor the meeting
2.31 from a remote location. If telephone or another electronic means is used to conduct a regular,
2.32 special, or emergency meeting, the council shall provide notice of the regular meeting

location, that some members may participate by electronic means, and of the option to monitor the meeting electronically from a remote location.

Subd. 5. **Duties.** (a) The council's duties may include but are not limited to:

(1) elevating the voice of older adults in developing the vision and action plan for an age-friendly state;

(2) engaging with the community, including older adults, caregivers, businesses, experts, advocacy organizations, and other interested parties, to inform recommendations and provide interested parties with updates on the council's recommendations;

(3) identifying opportunities for and barriers to collaboration and coordination among services and state agencies responsible for funding and administering programs and public-private partnerships;

(4) promoting equity and making progress toward equitable outcomes by examining programs, policies, and practices to ensure they address disparities experienced by older adults in greater Minnesota, older adults of color, and indigenous older adults;

(5) catalyzing age-friendly work at the local level, engaging with and empowering older adults, local constituents, elected officials, and other interested parties to create change in every community;

(6) establishing a statewide framework that allows for local flexibility to tap into the potential presented by our aging communities and elevates aging across all of Minnesota;

(7) reviewing, awarding, and monitoring grants under section 256.9747;

(8) assessing and examining relevant programs, policies, practices, and services to make budget and policy recommendations to establish age-friendly policies in law with appropriate financial support to ensure Minnesota continues to lead on age-friendly initiatives; and

(9) making budget and policy recommendations to the governor, commissioners, boards, other state agencies, and the legislature to further the council's mission to ensure the state is an age-friendly state.

(b) The council may accept technical assistance and in-kind services from outside organizations for purposes consistent with the council's role and authority.

Subd. 6. **Administration.** The Minnesota Board on Aging and Department of Human Services shall provide staffing and administrative support to the council.

Subd. 7. **Annual report.** Beginning January 1, 2026, and every two years thereafter, the council shall publish a public report on the council's activities, the uses and measurable

4.1 outcomes of the grant activities funded under section 256.9747, the council's
4.2 recommendations, proposed changes to statutes or rules, and other issues the council may
4.3 choose to report.

4.4 Sec. 2. **[256.9747] AGE-FRIENDLY MINNESOTA GRANTS.**

4.5 Subdivision 1. **Age-friendly community grants.** The commissioner of human services,
4.6 in collaboration with the Minnesota Board on Aging and the Age-Friendly Minnesota
4.7 Council, shall develop the age-friendly community grant program to help communities,
4.8 including cities, counties, other municipalities, Tribes, and collaborative efforts, become
4.9 age-friendly communities, with an emphasis on structures, services, and community features
4.10 necessary to support older adult residents, including but not limited to:

- 4.11 (1) coordination of health and social services;
4.12 (2) transportation access;
4.13 (3) safe, affordable places to live;
4.14 (4) reducing social isolation and improving wellness;
4.15 (5) combating ageism and racism against older adults;
4.16 (6) accessible outdoor space and buildings;
4.17 (7) communication and information technology access; and
4.18 (8) opportunities to stay engaged and economically productive.

4.19 Subd. 2. **Age-friendly technical assistance grants.** The commissioner of human services,
4.20 in collaboration with the Minnesota Board on Aging and the Age-Friendly Minnesota
4.21 Council, shall develop the age-friendly technical assistance grant program to support
4.22 communities and organizations who need assistance in applying for age-friendly community
4.23 grants and implementing various aspects of their grant-funded projects.

4.24 Sec. 3. Laws 2021, chapter 30, article 12, section 5, as amended by Laws 2021, First
4.25 Special Session chapter 7, article 17, section 2, and Laws 2023, chapter 61, article 2, section
4.26 35, is amended to read:

4.27 Sec. 5. **GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON AN AGE-FRIENDLY MINNESOTA.**

4.28 The Governor's Council on an Age-Friendly Minnesota, established in Executive Order
4.29 19-38, shall: (1) work to advance age-friendly policies; and (2) coordinate state, local, and
4.30 private partners' collaborative work on emergency preparedness, with a focus on older

adults, communities, and persons in zip codes most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Governor's Council on an Age-Friendly Minnesota is extended and expires June 30, ~~2027~~ 2025.

Sec. 4. **AGE-FRIENDLY MINNESOTA COUNCIL; CONTINUATION OF APPOINTMENTS AND DESIGNATION OF INITIAL TERMS.**

Subdivision 1. Continuation of appointments. Each member of the Governor's Council on an Age-Friendly Minnesota, established in Executive Order 19-38, serving on June 30, 2025, shall be deemed appointed to the Age-Friendly Minnesota Council by the applicable appointing authority under Minnesota Statutes, section 256.9746, effective July 1, 2025.

Subd. 2. First meeting. The individual who was serving as chairperson of the Governor's Council on an Age-Friendly Minnesota, established in Executive Order 19-38, as of June 30, 2025, must convene the first meeting of the Age-Friendly Minnesota Council no later than July 9, 2025. The former chairperson of the Governor's Council on an Age-Friendly Minnesota shall preside over the first meeting until the Age-Friendly Minnesota Council elects a chairperson.

Subd. 3. Designation of initial terms. The governor must notify the secretary of state which initial public members of the Age-Friendly Minnesota Council will have terms coterminous with that of the governor or request that the secretary of state randomly determine which initial public members will have terms coterminous with the governor's term.

Sec. 5. **APPROPRIATION; AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY GRANTS.**

\$1,500,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$1,500,000 in fiscal year 2027 are appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of human services for age-friendly community grants under Minnesota Statutes, section 256.9747, subdivision 1.

Sec. 6. **APPROPRIATION; AGE-FRIENDLY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS.**

\$863,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$863,000 in fiscal year 2027 are appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of human services for age-friendly technical assistance grants under Minnesota Statutes, section 256.9747, subdivision 2.