

Subject Minnesota Board on Aging Appropriation

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Summary

This bill appropriates \$1,995,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$2,071,000 in fiscal year 2027 from the general fund to the commissioner of human services for the Minnesota Board on Aging to add additional staff to:

- Ensure compliance with federal regulations and assist with providing updates and technical assistance to the seven area agencies on aging and service providers;
- Support compliance and policy development for services under the federal Older Americans Act (OAA);
- Better support increased service demands and operational needs of the Senior LinkAge Line; and
- Support Senior LinkAge Line operations at the area agencies on aging contact centers.

The Minnesota Board on Aging is a 25-member board whose members are appointed by the governor. Board staff are provided by the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the board is housed within that agency. One of the duties of the board is to administer programs funded through the federal OAA. The board is the agency designated by the state to receive OAA funds for distribution to Area Agencies on Aging.

In fiscal year 2023, the board received about \$31.6 million in federal funds and \$28.6 million in state funds for programs that it administers. These programs include the Senior LinkAge Line, senior nutrition services, prescription drug assistance, caregiver respite services grants, and dementia grants.