

VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY - 2026 SESSION

CHAPTER 491

An Act to amend and reenact § 51.5-128 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services; senior isolation prevention.

[S 260]

Approved April 8, 2026

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That § 51.5-128 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 51.5-128. Duties of the Commonwealth Council on Aging.

A. The Commonwealth Council on Aging (the Council) shall have the following duties:

1. Examine the needs of older Virginians and their caregivers and ways in which state government can most effectively and efficiently assist in meeting those needs;

2. Advise the Governor and General Assembly on aging issues and aging policy for the Commonwealth;

3. Advise the Governor on any proposed regulations deemed by the Director of the Department of Planning and Budget to have a substantial and distinct impact on older Virginians and their caregivers. Such advice shall be provided in addition to other regulatory reviews required by the Administrative Process Act (§ 2.2-4000 et seq.);

4. Advocate for and assist in developing the Commonwealth's planning for meeting the needs of the growing number of older Virginians and their caregivers;

5. Assist and advise the Department regarding strategies to improve nutritional health, alleviate hunger, and prevent malnutrition among older adults;

6. Recommend budget requests for consideration in the Governor's development of the budget; ~~and~~

7. Review and provide input as part of the development of the four-year-plan for aging services as defined in § 51.5-136; *and*

8. *Advise the Department on strategies for reducing social isolation and loneliness among seniors and promoting volunteer engagement.*

B. The Council may apply for and expend such grants, gifts, or bequests from any source as may become available in connection with its duties under this section, and may comply with such conditions and requirements as may be imposed in connection therewith.

C. The Council shall submit to the Governor, General Assembly, and Department by October 1 of each year an electronic report regarding the activities and recommendations of the Council, which shall be submitted for publication as a report document as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website and the Department's website.