STATE OF NEW YORK

7160--A

Cal. No. 494

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

April 3, 2025

Introduced by Sens. CLEARE, ADDABBO, CANZONERI-FITZPATRICK, HELMING, RHOADS, ROLISON -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Aging -- recommitted to the Committee on Aging in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- reported favorably from said committee, ordered to first and second report, ordered to a third reading, passed by Senate and delivered to the Assembly, recalled, vote reconsidered, restored to third reading, amended and ordered reprinted, retaining its place in the order of third reading

AN ACT to amend the elder law, in relation to establishing the senior center council; and to repeal certain provisions of such law, relating thereto

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Section 216 of the elder law is REPEALED and a new section 216 is added to read as follows:

§ 216. Senior center council. 1. Definition. For the purposes of this section, the term "council" shall mean the senior center council convened by the director pursuant to this section.

2. Membership. The senior center council is hereby established. The senior center council shall consist of ten members appointed by the director, who shall serve as the chair. These members shall have experience with the operation of senior centers and the provision of services therein. Members shall also be broadly representative of older adult groups and all geographic areas of the state. At least two of these members shall be over the age of sixty-two. The council shall convene within one hundred eighty days after the effective date of this section and annually thereafter.

3. Compensation. Members of the council, other than the director, shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be allowed their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties pursuant to this section.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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4. Purpose. The purpose of the council shall be to (a) provide a forum for discussion of challenges facing senior centers across the state and developing solutions;

(b) support sharing of information regarding efficient and effective operation of senior centers in different areas around the state;

(c) encourage the spread of methods and programs with proven effectiveness;

(d) create an environment for peer-to-peer support for senior centers across the state;

(e) offer recommendations for how the state can support senior centers and lower barriers to effective service delivery; and

(f) offer recommendations on existing services and cost effective measures to ensure the long-term sustainability and viability of senior centers in all areas of the state.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.