

1 AN ACT concerning aging.

2 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,  
3 represented in the General Assembly:

4 Section 5. The Illinois Act on the Aging is amended by  
5 changing Section 4.01 as follows:

6 (20 ILCS 105/4.01) (from Ch. 23, par. 6104.01)

7 Sec. 4.01. Additional powers and duties of the  
8 Department. In addition to powers and duties otherwise  
9 provided by law, the Department shall have the following  
10 powers and duties:

11 (1) To evaluate all programs, services, and facilities  
12 for the aged and for minority senior citizens within the  
13 State and determine the extent to which present public or  
14 private programs, services and facilities meet the needs of  
15 the aged.

16 (2) To coordinate and evaluate all programs, services,  
17 and facilities for the Aging and for minority senior citizens  
18 presently furnished by State agencies and make appropriate  
19 recommendations regarding such services, programs and  
20 facilities to the Governor and/or the General Assembly.

21 (3) To function as the sole State agency to develop a  
22 comprehensive plan to meet the needs of the State's senior  
23 citizens and the State's minority senior citizens.

24 (4) To receive and disburse State and federal funds made  
25 available directly to the Department including those funds  
26 made available under the Older Americans Act and the Senior  
27 Community Service Employment Program for providing services  
28 for senior citizens and minority senior citizens or for  
29 purposes related thereto, and shall develop and administer  
30 any State Plan for the Aging required by federal law.

31 (5) To solicit, accept, hold, and administer in behalf

1 of the State any grants or legacies of money, securities, or  
2 property to the State of Illinois for services to senior  
3 citizens and minority senior citizens or purposes related  
4 thereto.

5 (6) To provide consultation and assistance to  
6 communities, area agencies on aging, and groups developing  
7 local services for senior citizens and minority senior  
8 citizens.

9 (7) To promote community education regarding the  
10 problems of senior citizens and minority senior citizens  
11 through institutes, publications, radio, television and the  
12 local press.

13 (8) To cooperate with agencies of the federal government  
14 in studies and conferences designed to examine the needs of  
15 senior citizens and minority senior citizens and to prepare  
16 programs and facilities to meet those needs.

17 (9) To establish and maintain information and referral  
18 sources throughout the State when not provided by other  
19 agencies.

20 (10) To provide the staff support as may reasonably be  
21 required by the Council and the Coordinating Committee of  
22 State Agencies Serving Older Persons.

23 (11) To make and enforce rules and regulations necessary  
24 and proper to the performance of its duties.

25 (12) To establish and fund programs or projects or  
26 experimental facilities that are specially designed as  
27 alternatives to institutional care.

28 (13) To develop a training program to train the  
29 counselors presently employed by the Department's aging  
30 network to provide Medicare beneficiaries with counseling and  
31 advocacy in Medicare, private health insurance, and related  
32 health care coverage plans. The Department shall report to  
33 the General Assembly on the implementation of the training  
34 program on or before December 1, 1986.

1           (14) To make a grant to an institution of higher  
2 learning to study the feasibility of establishing and  
3 implementing an affirmative action employment plan for the  
4 recruitment, hiring, training and retraining of persons 60 or  
5 more years old for jobs for which their employment would not  
6 be precluded by law.

7           (15) To present one award annually in each of the  
8 categories of community service, education, the performance  
9 and graphic arts, and the labor force to outstanding Illinois  
10 senior citizens and minority senior citizens in recognition  
11 of their individual contributions to either community  
12 service, education, the performance and graphic arts, or the  
13 labor force. The awards shall be presented to four senior  
14 citizens and minority senior citizens selected from a list of  
15 44 nominees compiled annually by the Department. Nominations  
16 shall be solicited from senior citizens' service providers,  
17 area agencies on aging, senior citizens' centers, and senior  
18 citizens' organizations. The Department shall consult with  
19 the Coordinating Committee of State Agencies Serving Older  
20 Persons to determine which of the nominees shall be the  
21 recipient in each category of community service. The  
22 Department shall establish a central location within the  
23 State to be designated as the Senior Illinoisans Hall of Fame  
24 for the public display of all the annual awards, or replicas  
25 thereof.

26           ~~(16) To establish multipurpose senior centers through~~  
27 ~~area agencies on aging and~~ To fund these new and existing  
28 ~~multipurpose senior centers through area agencies on aging,~~  
29 ~~the establishment and funding to be distributed~~ begin in such  
30 ~~areas of the State~~ as the Department shall designate by rule  
31 and as specifically appropriated funds become available.

32           (17) To develop the content and format of the  
33 acknowledgment regarding non-recourse reverse mortgage loans  
34 under Section 6.1 of the Illinois Banking Act; to provide

1 independent consumer information on reverse mortgages and  
2 alternatives; and to refer consumers to independent  
3 counseling services with expertise in reverse mortgages.

4 (18) To develop a pamphlet in English and Spanish which  
5 may be used by physicians licensed to practice medicine in  
6 all of its branches pursuant to the Medical Practice Act of  
7 1987, pharmacists licensed pursuant to the Pharmacy Practice  
8 Act of 1987, and Illinois residents 65 years of age or older  
9 for the purpose of assisting physicians, pharmacists, and  
10 patients in monitoring prescriptions provided by various  
11 physicians and to aid persons 65 years of age or older in  
12 complying with directions for proper use of pharmaceutical  
13 prescriptions. The pamphlet may provide space for recording  
14 information including but not limited to the following:

- 15 (a) name and telephone number of the patient;
- 16 (b) name and telephone number of the prescribing  
17 physician;
- 18 (c) date of prescription;
- 19 (d) name of drug prescribed;
- 20 (e) directions for patient compliance; and
- 21 (f) name and telephone number of dispensing  
22 pharmacy.

23 In developing the pamphlet, the Department shall consult  
24 with the Illinois State Medical Society, the Center for  
25 Minority Health Services, the Illinois Pharmacists  
26 Association and senior citizens organizations. The  
27 Department shall distribute the pamphlets to physicians,  
28 pharmacists and persons 65 years of age or older or various  
29 senior citizen organizations throughout the State.

30 (19) To conduct a study by April 1, 1994 of the  
31 feasibility of implementing the Senior Companion Program  
32 throughout the State for the fiscal year beginning July 1,  
33 1994.

34 (20) With respect to contracts in effect on July 1,

1 1994, the Department shall increase the grant amounts so that  
2 the reimbursement rates paid through the community care  
3 program for chore housekeeping services and homemakers are at  
4 the same rate, which shall be the higher of the 2 rates  
5 currently paid. With respect to all contracts entered into,  
6 renewed, or extended on or after July 1, 1994, the  
7 reimbursement rates paid through the community care program  
8 for chore housekeeping services and homemakers shall be the  
9 same.

10 (21) From funds appropriated to the Department from the  
11 Meals on Wheels Fund, a special fund in the State treasury  
12 that is hereby created, and in accordance with State and  
13 federal guidelines and the intrastate funding formula, to  
14 make grants to area agencies on aging, designated by the  
15 Department, for the sole purpose of delivering meals to  
16 homebound persons 60 years of age and older.

17 (22) To distribute, through its area agencies on aging,  
18 information alerting seniors on safety issues regarding  
19 emergency weather conditions, including extreme heat and  
20 cold, flooding, tornadoes, electrical storms, and other  
21 severe storm weather. The information shall include all  
22 necessary instructions for safety and all emergency telephone  
23 numbers of organizations that will provide additional  
24 information and assistance.

25 (23) To develop guidelines for the organization and  
26 implementation of Volunteer Services Credit Programs to be  
27 administered by Area Agencies on Aging or community based  
28 senior service organizations. The Department shall hold  
29 public hearings on the proposed guidelines for public  
30 comment, suggestion, and determination of public interest.  
31 The guidelines shall be based on the findings of other states  
32 and of community organizations in Illinois that are currently  
33 operating volunteer services credit programs or demonstration  
34 volunteer services credit programs. The Department shall

1 offer guidelines for all aspects of the programs including,  
2 but not limited to, the following:

3 (a) types of services to be offered by volunteers;

4 (b) types of services to be received upon the  
5 redemption of service credits;

6 (c) issues of liability for the volunteers and the  
7 administering organizations;

8 (d) methods of tracking service credits earned and  
9 service credits redeemed;

10 (e) issues of time limits for redemption of service  
11 credits;

12 (f) methods of recruitment of volunteers;

13 (g) utilization of community volunteers, community  
14 service groups, and other resources for delivering  
15 services to be received by service credit program  
16 clients;

17 (h) accountability and assurance that services will  
18 be available to individuals who have earned service  
19 credits; and

20 (i) volunteer screening and qualifications.

21 The Department shall submit a written copy of the guidelines  
22 to the General Assembly by July 1, 1998.

23 (Source: P.A. 89-249, eff. 8-4-95; 89-580, eff. 1-1-97;  
24 90-251, eff. 1-1-98; revised 12-07-01.)

25 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
26 becoming law.