

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICIAL CODE

TITLE 7.
HUMAN HEALTH CARE AND SAFETY.

CHAPTER 5.
PROGRAMS FOR OLDER CITIZENS.

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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OFFICIAL CODE

CHAPTER 5. PROGRAMS FOR OLDER CITIZENS.

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CHAPTER 5. PROGRAMS FOR OLDER CITIZENS.

UNIT A. OFFICE ON AGING AND COMMISSION ON AGING.

SUBCHAPTER I. PURPOSE.

§ 7-501.01. PURPOSE.

It is the intent of the Council of the District of Columbia that the District government shall insure a full range of health, education, employment, and social services shall be available to the aged in the District of Columbia, and the planning and operation of such programs will be undertaken as a partnership of older citizens, families, community leaders, private agencies, and the District of Columbia government.

(Oct. 29, 1975, D.C. Law 1-24, title I, § 101, 22 DCR 2456.)

HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES

Prior Codifications

1981 Ed., § 6-2201.

1973 Ed., § 6-1701.

Legislative History of Laws

Law 1-24, the "District of Columbia Act on the Aging," was introduced in Council and assigned Bill No. 1-106, which was referred to the Committee on Human Resources and Aging. The Bill was adopted on first and second readings on June 17, 1975 and July 1, 1975, respectively. Signed by the Mayor on July 25, 1975, it was assigned Act No. 1-36 and transmitted to both Houses of Congress for its review.

Miscellaneous Notes

Advisory Committee on Aging abolished: The District of Columbia Advisory Committee on Aging was abolished by § 411 of D.C. Law 1-24.

SUBCHAPTER II. DEFINITIONS.

§ 7-502.01. DEFINITIONS.

(1) "Office" means the Office on Aging created by § 7-503.01.

(2) "Director" means the Executive Director of the Office on Aging.

(3) "Commission" means the Commission on the Aging created by § 7-504.01.

(4) "Aged" means a person 60 years of age or older.

(5) "Services to the aged" means those services designed to provide assistance to the aged, including nutritional programs, transportation and legal services, health and financial assistance, employment and housing programs, recreational opportunities, and information, referral, and counseling services.

(Oct. 29, 1975, D.C. Law 1-24, title II, § 201, 22 DCR 2456.)

HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES

Prior Codifications

1981 Ed., § 6-2202.

1973 Ed., § 6-1702.

Legislative History of Laws

For legislative history of D.C. Law 1-24, see Historical and Statutory Notes following § 7-501.01.

SUBCHAPTER III. OFFICE ON AGING.

§ 7-503.01. ESTABLISHMENT.

There is established an Office on Aging. The Office shall provide within the District government a single administrative unit, responsible to the Mayor, to administer the provisions of the Older Americans Act (P.L. 89-73, as amended), and such other programs as shall be delegated to it by the Mayor or the Council of the District of Columbia, and to promote the welfare of the aged.

(Oct. 29, 1975, D.C. Law 1-24, title III, § 301, 22 DCR 2457; Oct. 17, 1981, D.C. Law 4-42, § 9(b)(1), 28 DCR 3425.)

HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES

Prior Codifications

1981 Ed., § 6-2211.

1973 Ed., § 6-1711.

Legislative History of Laws

For legislative history of D.C. Law 1-24, see Historical and Statutory Notes following § 7-501.01.

Law 4-42, the "Governmental Reorganization Procedures Act of 1981," was introduced in Council and assigned Bill No. 4-197, which was referred to the Committee on Government Operations. The Bill was adopted on first and second readings on June 16, 1981, and June 30, 1981, respectively. Signed by the Mayor on July 23, 1981, it was assigned Act No. 4-71 and transmitted to both Houses of Congress for its review.

References in Text

The "Older Americans Act" is codified at 42 U.S.C. § 3001 et seq.

§ 7-503.02. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR--APPOINTMENT; COMPENSATION; STAFF.

The Office shall be headed by an Executive Director, who shall be appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Council of the District of Columbia, from a list of not more than 3 names submitted to him by the Commission. The Director shall devote his full time to the duties of his office. His annual compensation shall be fixed in accordance with Chapter 51 of Title 5, United States Code (relating to the classification of government employees and related matters), but shall be not less than a GS-15, Step 1 or the equivalent compensation pursuant to the provisions of subchapter XI of Chapter 6 of Title 1. He shall have such staff as is approved in the current District government budget and federal grants, plus any temporary staff approved by the Office of Budget and Management Systems.

(Oct. 29, 1975, D.C. Law 1-24, title III, § 302, 22 DCR 2457; Mar. 3, 1979, D.C. Law 2-139, § 3205(t), 25 DCR 5740.)

HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES

Prior Codifications

1981 Ed., § 6-2212.

1973 Ed., § 6-1712.

Legislative History of Laws

For legislative history of D.C. Law 1-24, see Historical and Statutory Notes following § 7-501.01.

Law 2-139, the "District of Columbia Government Comprehensive Merit Personnel Act of 1978," was introduced in Council and assigned Bill No. 2-10, which was referred to the Committee on Government Operations. The Bill was adopted on first and second readings on October 17, 1978, and October 31, 1978, respectively. Signed by the Mayor on November 22, 1978, it was assigned Act No. 2-300 and transmitted to both Houses of Congress for its review.

References in Text

"GS-15, Step 1," referred to in the second sentence, is contained in the General Schedule, which is set out following § 5332 of Title 5, United States Code.

Delegation of Authority

Delegation of authority under D.C. Law 7-218, the "District of Columbia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program Act of 1988", see Mayor's Order 89-86, April 28, 1989.

§ 7-503.03. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR -- DUTIES.

In order to carry out the purposes of this unit, the Director shall:

- (1) Serve as an advocate for the aged in the District of Columbia;
- (2) Contract with, and make grants to, public and private agencies using Older Americans Act funds, other federal funds received by the Office, and District government appropriated funds;
- (3) Provide information and technical assistance with respect to programs and services for the aged to the Mayor, the Commission on Aging, the Council of the District of Columbia, other District government agencies and departments, and the community, including, when necessary, contracting for consultant assistance outside the District government;
- (3A) Provide information, through the Office of the Chief Technology Officer, to District of Columbia residents on prescription drug savings available under and eligibility for the AccessRx program established by subchapter I of Chapter 8A of Title 48;
- (4) Consider the advice and recommendations of the Commission in carrying out his responsibilities under this unit;
- (5) File an annual report on the operation of the Office and an analysis of the needs of the aged with the Mayor and the Council of the District of Columbia, and make it available to the public;
- (6) Publish a directory of services available to the aged through the District government and including, to the maximum extent possible, sources of nonpublic assistance and programs for the aged in the District of Columbia that directory shall be revised at least every 2 years;
- (7) Identify areas of need for service or improvement of service and bring them to the attention of the Mayor and Commission, with suggestions for meeting such needs, including conducting or funding research and demonstration projects to test such suggestions;
- (8) Carry responsibility for assuring necessary control, evaluation, audit, and reporting on programs funded through the Office;
- (9) Prepare in timely fashion the state plan required under the Older Americans Act and forward it to the Commission for comment and Mayor for approval;
- (10) Develop, with the advice of the Commission, a 5-year plan of policies, programs, services and activities to benefit aged residents of the District of Columbia. Such plan shall be reviewed and updated annually;
- (11) Review and comment on proposed District and federal legislation, regulations, policies, and programs and make policy recommendations on issues affecting the health, safety, and welfare of the aged.

(Oct. 29, 1975, D.C. Law 1-24, title III, § 303, 22 DCR 2457; Sept. 14, 1976, D.C. Law 1-83, § 2, 23 DCR 2462; Dec. 7, 2004, D.C. Law 15-205, § 5602, 51 DCR 8441; Mar. 2, 2007, D.C. Law 16-191, § 31, 53 DCR 6794.)

HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES

Prior Codifications

1981 Ed., § 6-2213.

1973 Ed., § 6-1713.

Effect of Amendments

D.C. Law 15-205 added par. (3A).

D.C. Law 16-191, in par. (3), substituted "community, including," for "community. This shall include,"; and, in par. (6), substituted "Columbia that" for "Columbia. The".

Emergency Act Amendments

For temporary (90 day) amendment of section, see § 5602 of Fiscal Year 2005 Budget Support Emergency Act of 2004 (D.C. Act 15-486, August 2, 2004, 51 DCR 8236).

For temporary (90 day) amendment of section, see § 5602 of Fiscal Year 2005 Budget Support

Congressional Review Emergency Act of 2004 (D.C. Act 15-594, October 26, 2004, 51 DCR 11725).

Legislative History of Laws

For legislative history of D.C. Law 1-24, see Historical and Statutory Notes following § 7-501.01.

Law 1-83, the "District of Columbia Aging Act Amendments," was introduced in Council and assigned Bill No. 1-249, which was referred to the Committee on Human Resources and Aging. The Bill was adopted on first and second readings on May 6, 1976 and May 20, 1976, respectively. Signed by the Mayor on June 18, 1976, it was assigned Act No. 1-132 and transmitted to both Houses of Congress for its review.

Law 15-205, the "Fiscal Year 2005 Budget Support Act of 2004", was introduced in Council and assigned Bill No. 15-768, which was referred to the Committee of the Whole. The Bill was adopted on first and second readings on May 14, 2004, and June 29, 2004, respectively. Signed by the Mayor on August 2, 2004, it was assigned Act No. 15-487 and transmitted to both Houses of Congress for its review. D.C. Law 15-205 became effective on December 7, 2004.

For Law 16-191, see notes following § 7-103.

References in Text

The "Older Americans Act," referred to in paragraphs (2) and (9), is codified at 42 U.S.C. § 3001 et seq.

Miscellaneous Notes

Short title of subtitle F of title V of Law 15-205: Section 5601 of D.C. Law 15-205 provided that subtitle F of title V of the act may be cited as the Office on Aging AccessRx Prescription Drug Assistance Amendment Act of 2004.

§ 7-503.04. IMPACT STATEMENTS.

All heads of departments and agencies of the District government are required at least 30 days prior to implementation of any proposed policies or programs that will have a major impact on the aged to submit such proposals to the Director for comment. If the impact of the proposal is determined by the Director to be adverse, he shall file a statement of this finding with the Mayor, the Commission, and the Council of the District of Columbia, as well as the originating department or agency.

(Oct. 29, 1975, D.C. Law 1-24, title III, § 304, 22 DCR 2459.)

HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES

Prior Codifications

1981 Ed., § 6-2214.

1973 Ed., § 6-1714.

Legislative History of Laws

For legislative history of D.C. Law 1-24, see Historical and Statutory Notes following § 7-501.01.

§ 7-503.05. STANDARDS FOR GRANT AND CONTRACT AWARDS.

After consultation with the Commission on Aging established by § 7-504.01 the Director shall develop and publish the standards that the Office will use in making decisions on the award of grants and contracts.

(Oct. 29, 1975, D.C. Law 1-24, title III, § 305, 22 DCR 2459.)

HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES

Prior Codifications

1981 Ed., § 6-2215.

1973 Ed., § 6-1715.

Legislative History of Laws

For legislative history of D.C. Law 1-24, see Historical and Statutory Notes following § 7-501.01.

§ 7-503.06. TRANSFER OF FUNDS AND POSITIONS FROM DIVISION OF SERVICES TO THE AGING.

The Division of Services to the Aging presently located within the Department of Human Resources, and all positions and unexpended funds presently allocated to this Division are hereby transferred to the new

Office created under § 7- 503.01.

(Oct. 29, 1975, D.C. Law 1-24, title III, § 306, 22 DCR 2459.)

HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES

Prior Codifications

1981 Ed., § 6-2216.

1973 Ed., § 6-1716.

Legislative History of Laws

For legislative history of D.C. Law 1-24, see Historical and Statutory Notes following § 7-501.01.

SUBCHAPTER IV. COMMISSION ON AGING.

§ 7-504.01. ESTABLISHMENT.

There is hereby established a Commission on Aging to advise the Mayor, the Director of the Office on Aging, the Council of the District of Columbia, and the public concerning the views and needs of the aged in the District of Columbia.

(Oct. 29, 1975, D.C. Law 1-24, title IV, § 401, 22 DCR 2460; Oct. 17, 1981, D.C. Law 4-42, § 9(b)(2), 28 DCR 3425.)

HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES

Prior Codifications

1981 Ed., § 6-2221.

1973 Ed., § 6-1721.

Legislative History of Laws

For legislative history of D.C. Law 1-24, see Historical and Statutory Notes following § 7-501.01.

Law 4-42, the "Governmental Reorganization Procedures Act of 1981," was introduced in Council and assigned Bill No. 4-197, which was referred to the Committee on Government Operations. The Bill was adopted on first and second readings on June 16, 1981, and June 30, 1981, respectively. Signed by the Mayor on July 23, 1981, it was assigned Act No. 4-71 and transmitted to both Houses of Congress for its review.

§ 7-504.02. COMPOSITION; APPOINTMENT.

When a vacancy develops on the Commission, the Mayor may appoint a successor to fill the unexpired portion of a term.

(Oct. 29, 1975, D.C. Law 1-24, title IV, § 402, 22 DCR 2460; June 12, 1999, D.C. Law 12-285, § 4(i), 46 DCR 1355; Oct. 14, 1999, D.C. Law 13-49, § 5, 46 DCR 5153.)

HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES

Prior Codifications

1981 Ed., § 6-2222.

1973 Ed., § 6-1722.

Effect of Amendments

D.C. Law 13-49 rewrote this section, which previously read:

"The Commission shall consist of 15 public (voting) members appointed by the Mayor. At least one-half of the membership of the Commission shall consist of actual consumers of services under this program, including low income and minority older persons, at least in proportion to the number of minority older persons in the District of Columbia. There shall also be the following ex officio members: The Directors of the Department of Human Services, the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Department of Recreation, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Employment Services, the Public Library, the Chief of the Metropolitan Police Department (or the Director or Chief of such successor agencies), and a member of the Council of the District of Columbia."

Emergency Act Amendments

For temporary amendment of section, see § 4(i) of the Confirmation Emergency Amendment Act of 1999

(D.C. Act 13-25, March 15, 1999, 46 DCR 2971).

For temporary (90-day) amendment of section, see § 4(i) of the Confirmation Act Congressional Review Emergency Amendment Act of 1999 (D.C. Act 13-92, June 4, 1999, 46 DCR 5330).

Legislative History of Laws

For legislative history of D.C. Law 1-24, see Historical and Statutory Notes following § 7-501.01.

Law 12-285, the "Confirmation Amendment Act of 1998," was introduced in Council and assigned Bill No. 12-261, which was referred to the Committee on Government Operations. The Bill was adopted on first and second readings on November 10, 1998, and December 1, 1998, respectively. Vetoed by the Mayor on December 29, 1998, Council overrode the veto on January 5, 1999 and the Bill was assigned Act No. 12-622 and transmitted to both Houses of Congress for its review. D.C. Law 12-285 became effective on June 12, 1999.

Law 13-49, the "Criminal Code and Clarifying Technical Amendments Act of 1999," was introduced in Council and assigned Bill No. 13-61, which was referred to the Committee of the Whole. The Bill was adopted on first and second readings on March 2, 1999, and April 13, 1999, respectively. Signed by the Mayor on May 13, 1999, it was assigned Act No. 13-69 and transmitted to both Houses of Congress for its review. D.C. Law 13-49 became effective on October 19, 1999.

§ 7-504.03. QUALIFICATIONS.

Members shall be appointed with due consideration for fair geographical distribution, representation from organizations of older persons, public and voluntary agencies concerned with the aged, and members of the general public who have given evidence of particular dedication to and understanding of the needs of the aged. At least 8 members shall be 60 years of age or over, and all must be residents of the District of Columbia.

(Oct. 29, 1975, D.C. Law 1-24, title IV, § 403, 22 DCR 2460.)

HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES

Prior Codifications

1981 Ed., § 6-2223.

1973 Ed., § 6-1723.

Legislative History of Laws

For legislative history of D.C. Law 1-24, see Historical and Statutory Notes following § 7-501.01.

§ 7-504.04. TERM OF OFFICE.

Members of the Commission shall serve terms not to exceed 3 years, which shall regularly commence on October 29th in the year of appointment and expire on October 28th 3 years later. The terms shall be staggered so that 5 terms expire each year on October 28th. Members may be reappointed but may not serve more than 2 consecutive terms.

(Oct. 29, 1975, D.C. Law 1-24, title IV, § 404, 22 DCR 2461; Mar. 10, 1982, D.C. Law 4-73, § 4(c), 28 DCR 5276.)

HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES

Prior Codifications

1981 Ed., § 6-2224.

1973 Ed., § 6-1724.

Legislative History of Laws

For legislative history of D.C. Law 1-24, see Historical and Statutory Notes following § 7-501.01.

See note § 47-850.

§ 7-504.05. VACANCIES.

When a vacancy develops on the Commission, the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Council of the District of Columbia may appoint a successor to fill the unexpired portion of the term. A member may continue to serve beyond the expiration date of the member's term until a successor is duly qualified. If within 30 calendar days of development of a vacancy on the Commission the Mayor fails to transmit to the

Council of the District of Columbia a nomination for that vacancy, the Council of the District of Columbia may make the appointment. If within 60 calendar days of submission of a nomination for the Commission the Council of the District of Columbia fails to act, the nomination shall be deemed confirmed.

(Oct. 29, 1975, D.C. Law 1-24, title IV, § 405, 22 DCR 2461; Sept. 29, 1988, D.C. Law § 7-152, § 2, 35 DCR 5704.)

HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES

Prior Codifications

1981 Ed., § 6-2225.

1973 Ed., § 6-1725.

Legislative History of Laws

For legislative history of D.C. Law 1-24, see Historical and Statutory Notes following § 7-501.01.

Law 7-152, the "District of Columbia Act on the Aging Amendment Act of 1988," was introduced in Council and assigned Bill No. 7-363, which was referred to the Committee on Human Services. The Bill was adopted on first and second readings on June 28, 1988 and July 12, 1988, respectively. Signed by the Mayor on July 15, 1988, it was assigned Act No. 7-207 and transmitted to both Houses of Congress for its review.

§ 7-504.06. RULES OF PROCEDURE.

The Commission shall develop its own rules of procedure, except they shall provide that the Commission shall meet at least every other month.

(Oct. 29, 1975, D.C. Law 1-24, title IV, § 406, 22 DCR 2461.)

HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES

Prior Codifications

1981 Ed., § 6-2226.

1973 Ed., § 6-1726.

Legislative History of Laws

For legislative history of D.C. Law 1-24, see Historical and Statutory Notes following § 7-501.01.

§ 7-504.07. CHAIRPERSON.

The Commission shall select its own Chairperson, by vote.

(Oct. 29, 1975, D.C. Law 1-24, title IV, § 407, 22 DCR 2461.)

HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES

Prior Codifications

1981 Ed., § 6-2227.

1973 Ed., § 6-1727.

Legislative History of Laws

For legislative history of D.C. Law 1-24, see Historical and Statutory Notes following § 7-501.01.

§ 7-504.08. COMPENSATION; EXPENSES.

All members shall serve without compensation, but expenses incurred by the Commission as a whole, or by its individual members, when duly authorized, will become an obligation against appropriate District government and federal funds designated for that purpose.

(Oct. 29, 1975, D.C. Law 1-24, title IV, § 408, 22 DCR 2462.)

HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES

Prior Codifications

1981 Ed., § 6-2228.

1973 Ed., § 6-1728.

For legislative history of D.C. Law 1-24, see Historical and Statutory Notes following § 7-501.01.

§ 7-504.09. STAFF; TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

Necessary staff services shall be supplied in accordance with positions and funding approved in the current District government budget. In addition, the Director of the Office on Aging shall provide information and technical assistance as required under § 7-503.03.

(Oct. 29, 1975, D.C. Law 1-24, title IV, § 409, 22 DCR 2462.)

HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES

Prior Codifications

1981 Ed., § 6-2229.

1973 Ed., § 6-1729.

Legislative History of Laws

For legislative history of D.C. Law 1-24, see Historical and Statutory Notes following § 7-501.01.

§ 7-504.10. DUTIES.

The Commission on Aging shall:

- (1) Serve as an advocate for older persons in the District of Columbia;
- (2) Review and submit to the Mayor, the Council of the District of Columbia, and the Office on Aging, an annual report including comments on the analysis of the needs of the aged in the District of Columbia made in the report of the Director;
- (3) Advise the Director on cooperation with federal, state, and private agencies concerned with activities pertaining to the aged;
- (4) Review and comment on the annual state plan required under the Older Americans Act. The statement of the Commission shall be transmitted to the Department of Health and Human Services with the plan;
- (5) Develop a list of not more than 3 persons the Commission recommends for the position of Director of the Office on Aging, whenever that position is vacant, and submit that list to the Mayor;
- (6) Conduct or participate in public hearings and other forums to determine views of older persons and other members of the public on matters affecting the health, safety and welfare of the aged in the District of Columbia;
- (7) Bring to the attention of the Mayor and the Office on Aging cases of neglect and abuse of the aged and incidents of bias against the aged in the administration of the laws of the District of Columbia;
- (8) Review and comment on the Director's review of proposed District and federal legislation, regulations, policies and programs, and comment on the Director's policy recommendations on issues affecting the health, safety, and welfare of the aged;
- (9) Provide a continuing review of the activities of the Office on Aging and issue reports thereon at least annually.

(Oct. 29, 1975, D.C. Law 1-24, title IV, § 410, 22 DCR 2462; Sept. 14, 1976, D.C. Law 1-83, § 3, 23 DCR 2462.)

HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES

Prior Codifications

1981 Ed., § 6-2230.

1973 Ed., § 6-1730.

Legislative History of Laws

For legislative history of D.C. Law 1-24, see Historical and Statutory Notes following § 7-501.01.

For legislative history of D.C. Law 1-83, see Historical and Statutory Notes following § 7-503.03.

References in Text

The "Older Americans Act," referred to in paragraph (4), is codified at 42 U.S.C. § 3001 et seq.

UNIT B. VOLUNTEER SERVICE CREDIT PROGRAM.

§ 7-531.01. DEFINITIONS.

For the purposes of this unit, the term:

- (1) "District" means the District of Columbia.
- (2) "Eligible person" means an individual who is 60 years of age or older or is mentally or physically ill, infirm, or has a disability.
- (3) "Service credit" means the unit of exchange upon which the volunteer service credit program operates.
- (4) "Sponsor" means a nonprofit organization or a consortium of nonprofit organizations that receives and dispenses service credits on behalf of eligible persons and is designated by the Mayor to perform the administrative tasks necessary to implement this unit.
- (5) "Targeted service" means a task for which service credits may be earned when performed by a volunteer for an eligible person.
- (6) "Volunteer" means an individual who earns service credits by:
 - (A) Providing targeted services to an eligible person not related to him or her by blood, marriage, guardianship, or adoption;
 - (B) Providing services under a demonstration project;
 - (C) Participating in pre-service or in-service training under the volunteer service credit program or a demonstration project; or
 - (D) Performing administrative tasks in direct support of the volunteer service credit program or a demonstration project.

(Sept. 13, 1986, D.C. Law 6-143, § 2, 33 DCR 4372; Apr. 24, 2007, D.C. Law 16-305, § 23, 53 DCR 6198.)

HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES

Prior Codifications

1981 Ed., § 6-2241.

Effect of Amendments

D.C. Law 16-305, in par. (2), substituted "infirm, or has a disability" for "disabled, or infirm".

Legislative History of Laws

Law 6-143, the "Volunteer Service Credit Program Act of 1986," was introduced in Council and assigned Bill No. 6-282, which was referred to the Committee on Human Services. The Bill was adopted on first and second readings on June 10, 1986 and June 24, 1986, respectively. Signed by the Mayor on July 8, 1986, it was assigned Act No. 6-185 and transmitted to both Houses of Congress for its review.

Law 16-305, the "People First Respectful Language Modernization Act of 2006", was introduced in Council and assigned Bill No. 16-664, which was referred to Committee on the Whole. The Bill was adopted on first and second readings on June 20, 2006, and July 11, 2006, respectively. Signed by the Mayor on July 17, 2006, it was assigned Act No. 16-437 and transmitted to both Houses of Congress for its review. D.C. Law 16-305 became effective on April 24, 2007.

Delegation of Authority

Delegation of authority pursuant to Law 6-143, see Mayor's Order 87-140, June 16, 1987.

§ 7-531.02. ESTABLISHMENT OF PILOT VOLUNTEER SERVICE CREDIT PROGRAM.

(a) Within 8 months after September 13, 1986, the Mayor shall establish a 3- year pilot volunteer service credit program ("program") through which individuals may volunteer targeted services and in return earn service credits that may be subsequently exchanged for targeted services. To implement the program, the Mayor may award grants and contracts to approved sponsors. The Mayor shall widely publicize a description of the program and a contact telephone number and address for those who may wish to participate.

(b)(1) The Mayor shall ensure that the District government or a sponsor maintains a computerized, District-wide register containing:

- (A) The names of participating volunteers, services for which they are available, and any other

personal information relevant to the program;

(B) An accounting system with the capacity to make available to the Mayor, each sponsor, and each volunteer a monthly balance of service credits earned and used; and

(C) Any other data that may be needed to monitor and administer the program and any demonstration projects undertaken pursuant to § 7-531.07.

(2) The register required by this subsection shall be used solely to match volunteers with eligible persons and to accomplish other tasks consistent with the purposes of this unit.

(Sept. 13, 1986, D.C. Law 6-143, § 3, 33 DCR 4372.)

HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES

Prior Codifications

1981 Ed., § 6-2242.

Legislative History of Laws

For legislative history of D.C. Law 6-143, see Historical and Statutory Notes following § 7-531.01.

§ 7-531.03. TARGETED SERVICES.

Targeted services shall consist of those tasks that the Mayor has determined will foster the independence, self-sufficiency, and noninstitutionalized living of eligible persons and shall fall within the following categories:

(1) Those tasks, such as respite care, personal grooming, and meal preparation, that, when performed in the home, address the personal care needs of an eligible person;

(2) Those tasks, such as light housekeeping, heavy cleaning, and minor repairs, that, when performed in or around the home, address the environmental needs of an eligible person;

(3) Those tasks, such as exercise and recreational therapy, that address the physical or rehabilitative needs of an eligible person; and

(4) Those tasks, such as transportation and escort, that address the ability of an eligible person to function outside the home.

(Sept. 13, 1986, D.C. Law 6-143, § 4, 33 DCR 4372.)

HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES

Prior Codifications

1981 Ed., § 6-2243.

Legislative History of Laws

For legislative history of D.C. Law 6-143, see Historical and Statutory Notes following § 7-531.01.

§ 7-531.04. SERVICE CREDITS.

(a) To initiate the program, the Mayor shall establish a pool of service credits to be awarded to eligible persons who are in need of targeted services. The Mayor may award credits to eligible persons directly from this pool or may distribute all or part of these credits to sponsors who shall in turn be authorized to award them. The awarding of credits to eligible persons shall be commensurate with the availability of volunteers.

(b) In addition to the pool of service credits established under subsection (a) of this section, a sponsor may, with the prior written approval of the Mayor, establish its own pool of service credits to be awarded to eligible persons. In order to receive this approval, a sponsor shall satisfy the Mayor that it has resources and contingency plans sufficient to meet the obligations imposed by § 7-531.05.

(c)(1) Volunteers who provide targeted services shall earn 1 service credit for each hour of targeted services provided.

(2) If authorized by the Mayor, volunteers may also earn service credits for the completion of pre-service and in-service training and for the performance of administrative tasks in direct support of the program. Service credits earned in this manner shall be computed at a rate of 1 credit for every 2 hours of training or administrative service.

(d)(1) A volunteer who has service credits may transfer all or part of those credits, either directly or through a sponsor, to an eligible person. Credits thus transferred may not be retransferred.

(2) A volunteer who has service credits may transfer all or part of those credits to the Mayor or a

sponsor for the purpose of replenishing a pool of service credits established under subsection (a) or (b) of this section.

(e) Except as otherwise provided by § 7-531.05 or the rules issued by the Mayor under § 7-531.10, an eligible person may at any time exchange service credits that he or she has earned, received by transfer, or been awarded for an equal number of hours of any targeted service. The Mayor or a sponsor shall determine whether a requested service is a targeted service and whether the requestor is an eligible person.

(Sept. 13, 1986, D.C. Law 6-143, § 5, 33 DCR 4372.)

HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES

Prior Codifications

1981 Ed., § 6-2244.

Legislative History of Laws

For legislative history of D.C. Law 6-143, see Historical and Statutory Notes following § 7-531.01.

§ 7-531.05. SERVICE CREDIT GUARANTEE.

(a) To ensure that outstanding service credits are promptly honored when exchanged for targeted services, the Mayor and each sponsor shall develop contingency plans and engage in diligent volunteer recruitment. Except as otherwise provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this section, the Mayor shall guarantee all outstanding credits from the pool of service credits established under § 7-531.04(a), and a sponsor shall guarantee all outstanding credits from any pool of service credits it has established under § 7-531.04(b). Under these guarantees the Mayor or a sponsor shall ensure the provision of a targeted service, even if a volunteer is unavailable, within 10 days after an eligible person with service credits requests that service.

(b) If the program expires or is terminated, the Mayor shall promptly give written notice to all sponsors and persons known to have outstanding credits from the pool of service credits established under § 7-531.04(a). Each sponsor shall promptly give written notice of the expiration or termination to all persons known to have outstanding credits from any pool of service credits it has established under § 7-531.04(b). The guarantees required by subsection (a) of this section shall cover all requests for targeted services made within 6 months after written notice is given under this subsection.

(c) Service credit guarantees established by this section shall not apply to those requested services that are required by District law to be performed by licensed individuals.

(Sept. 13, 1986, D.C. Law 6-143, § 6, 33 DCR 4372.)

HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES

Prior Codifications

1981 Ed., § 6-2245.

Legislative History of Laws

For legislative history of D.C. Law 6-143, see Historical and Statutory Notes following § 7-531.01.

§ 7-531.06. ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

Each sponsor shall have an advisory committee composed of persons skilled in the provision of targeted services and persons who represent or advocate the interests of eligible persons. An advisory committee shall monitor the sponsor's compliance with program requirements, make recommendations to the sponsor on program implementation, and carry out any other program-related tasks that the Mayor deems appropriate.

(Sept. 13, 1986, D.C. Law 6-143, § 7, 33 DCR 4372.)

HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES

Prior Codifications

1981 Ed., § 6-2246.

Legislative History of Laws

For legislative history of D.C. Law 6-143, see Historical and Statutory Notes following § 7-531.01.

§ 7-531.07. DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.

In addition to the volunteer service credit program, the Mayor may establish service credit demonstration projects, such as an intergenerational service program involving recipients who would not otherwise qualify as "eligible persons" under § 7-531.01(2). Services provided through these demonstration projects shall earn service credits but shall not be covered by the provisions of § 7-531.05.

(Sept. 13, 1986, D.C. Law 6-143, § 8, 33 DCR 4372.)

HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES

Prior Codifications

1981 Ed., § 6-2247.

Legislative History of Laws

For legislative history of D.C. Law 6-143, see Historical and Statutory Notes following § 7-531.01.

§ 7-531.08. STATUS OF VOLUNTEERS; REIMBURSEMENT.

Volunteers shall not, by virtue of their participation in the program or a demonstration project, be entitled to monetary compensation or considered for any purpose to be employees or agents of either the District or a sponsor. Sponsors may reimburse volunteers for necessary expenses incident to their provision of targeted or demonstration project services, attendance at pre-service or in-service training, or performance of administrative tasks in direct support of the program or demonstration project.

(Sept. 13, 1986, D.C. Law 6-143, § 9, 33 DCR 4372.)

HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES

Prior Codifications

1981 Ed., § 6-2248.

Legislative History of Laws

For legislative history of D.C. Law 6-143, see Historical and Statutory Notes following § 7-531.01.

§ 7-531.09. QUALIFIED IMMUNITY.

With respect to their participation in the program or a demonstration project, the District government and its agencies, officials, and employees and sponsors and their advisory committees, officials, and employees shall be immune from civil or criminal liability if they have acted in good faith. This immunity shall not apply to volunteers.

(Sept. 13, 1986, D.C. Law 6-143, § 10, 33 DCR 4372.)

HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES

Prior Codifications

1981 Ed., § 6-2249.

Legislative History of Laws

For legislative history of D.C. Law 6-143, see Historical and Statutory Notes following § 7-531.01.

§ 7-531.10. RULES.

The Mayor shall, within 8 months after September 13, 1986, and pursuant to subchapter I of Chapter 5 of Title 2, issue all rules necessary to carry out the purposes of this unit. These rules may include, but shall not necessarily be limited to, standards and procedures with respect to the following:

- (1) Volunteer qualifications, screening, pre-service and in-service training, monitoring, and termination;
- (2) Minimum liability and accident insurance for volunteers;
- (3) Sponsor qualifications;
- (4) The awarding of service credits;
- (5) Minimum hours that a volunteer must be available;
- (6) Weekly and annual limits on the number of service credits a volunteer may earn;

- (7) The delayed vesting of or ability to use service credits earned for pre-service training or the performance of administrative tasks;
- (8) Mayoral and sponsor notification of service credit transfers;
- (9) Contingency planning and volunteer reserves;
- (10) Program evaluation and the responsibilities of sponsor advisory committees; and
- (11) Demonstration projects.

(Sept. 13, 1986, D.C. Law 6-143, § 11, 33 DCR 4372.)

HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES

Prior Codifications

1981 Ed., § 6-2250.

Legislative History of Laws

For legislative history of D.C. Law 6-143, see Historical and Statutory Notes following § 7-531.01.

§ 7-531.11. REPORTING TO COUNCIL.

The Mayor shall prepare and submit to the Council annual reports on the volunteer service credit program and any demonstration projects established under § 7-531.07. These reports shall at a minimum include:

- (1) A description of the participating population, including the number or persons served and the services provided;
- (2) The number of service credits outstanding at the conclusion of the reporting period;
- (3) Program costs, including the cost to the District government of honoring service credits when volunteers have been unavailable;
- (4) A description of any positive or negative effects on other volunteer activities;
- (5) A program evaluation, including an assessment of the quality of services provided, participant satisfaction, and the need to increase or decrease the categories of targeted services or the hours of service availability; and
- (6) Recommendations regarding continuation of the program or amendments to this unit.

(Sept. 13, 1986, D.C. Law 6-143, § 12, 33 DCR 4372.)

HISTORICAL AND STATUTORY NOTES

Prior Codifications

1981 Ed., § 6-2251.

Legislative History of Laws

For legislative history of D.C. Law 6-143, see Historical and Statutory Notes following § 7-531.01.