



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 187

January Session, 2021

Substitute Senate Bill No. 899

Senate, March 29, 2021

The Committee on Aging reported through SEN. MILLER of the 27th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING SENIOR SAFETY ZONES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 54-261 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2021*):

3 (a) The Court Support Services Division, in conjunction with state-
4 wide experts in law enforcement, the treatment of sexual offenders and
5 sexual assault victim services, shall, within available appropriations,
6 develop a community response education program to be offered to
7 neighborhoods and municipalities that have been notified pursuant to
8 section 54-258 that a person who has registered under said section is or
9 will be residing in that community.

10 (b) The purpose of such program shall be to assist neighborhoods,
11 senior centers and other facilities serving or housing senior citizens in
12 such neighborhoods, parents and children to learn how to better protect
13 themselves from sexual abuse and sexual assault. The program shall
14 develop educational materials and community information resources

15 on prevention and risk reduction concerning sexual abuse and sexual
16 assault and the enforcement of requirements concerning the registration
17 and supervision of sexual offenders and the notification of communities
18 where such offenders reside.

19 (c) The program may include the following:

20 (1) An initial community meeting following a community
21 notification, sponsored by the Court Support Services Division and held
22 in conjunction with the chief of police, chief elected officials, the
23 superintendent of schools and other municipal officials of the
24 community, to discuss the implementation of the statutory
25 requirements concerning the registration of a sexual offender and the
26 notification of the community where such offender resides, to provide
27 information on the crime or crimes involved and to provide information
28 on how the offender will be monitored by the Court Support Services
29 Division and the specific conditions of probation applicable to the
30 offender;

31 (2) Information on how and where concerned residents may report
32 observed violations by an offender of the conditions of such offender's
33 probation;

34 (3) Resources to educate families, [and] children and senior citizens
35 in the prevention and avoidance of sexual abuse and sexual assault and
36 for parents seeking supportive methods for discussing relevant issues
37 with their children;

38 (4) Resources on when and how a community may wish to establish
39 a network of "Safe Houses" for neighborhood children to use when they
40 seek safe shelter or the creation of a neighborhood block watch or crime
41 watch;

42 (5) Resources for police departments and boards of education to use
43 in consulting with parents on appropriate school-based classroom
44 programs stressing safety, prevention and risk reduction and to use in
45 developing educational programs for parents to discuss relevant issues

46 with their children; [and]

47 (6) Resources for police departments and municipal officials to
48 provide programs stressing safety, prevention and risk reduction for
49 senior citizens living in the community or receiving services at a senior
50 center or other facility located in the community; and

51 ~~[(6)]~~ (7) Compilation and distribution of a list of child protective
52 agencies, child guidance clinics and rape crisis centers for families
53 seeking more in-depth counseling after a community notification has
54 occurred.

55 (d) The Court Support Services Division may apply for and receive
56 grants from the federal government or any agency thereof or from any
57 foundation, corporation, association or individual for purposes of the
58 development of the community response education program under this
59 section.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2021	54-261

AGE *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill expands the Judicial Department Court Support Services Division's (CSSD) Community Response Education Program to include senior citizen sexual assault and abuse prevention and education and does not result in a fiscal impact as it is anticipated that CSSD will be able to include this group without additional resources.

The Out Years

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 899

AN ACT CONCERNING SENIOR SAFETY ZONES.

SUMMARY

This bill expands the scope of the state’s Community Response Education Program to include resources for:

1. police departments and municipal officials to provide programs on senior citizen sexual assault and abuse safety, prevention, and risk reduction and
2. educating seniors, in addition to families and children as under current law, on preventing and avoiding sexual abuse and assault.

By law, the Court Support Services Division administers the program, within available appropriations, to help neighborhoods, parents, and children learn how to better protect themselves from sexual assault and sexual abuse. The bill specifies that neighborhoods include senior centers and other facilities within neighborhoods that house or serve seniors.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2021

COMMITTEE ACTION

Aging Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 16 Nay 0 (03/11/2021)