

April 19, 1965.

Appropriations. *be amended + deposit* By INDUSTRIAL AND HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

House File 647

Passed House, Date *5/10*

Passed Senate, Date *5/25*

Vote: Ayes *108* Nays *0*

Vote: Ayes *2/5* Nays *9*

Approved *June 2, filed*

*passed on file 5/10  
appropriations 5/11  
CPA 5/25*

# A BILL FOR

An Act to create a commission on the aging of the State of Iowa and to provide for the powers, duties and authority thereof.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

This is a Companion Bill; for complete text see Senate File 351.

HOUSE FILE 647

- 1 Amend House File 647 as follows:
- 2 1. Amend line 3 of the title by inserting after the word
- 3 "thereof" the following: "and to provide an appropriation therefor".

Filed *adapted 5/10*  
April 29, 1965.

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE,  
CASEY LOSS, *Chairman*.

## EXPLANATION OF HOUSE FILE 647

Iowa has the highest percentage of citizens 65 and older of the several states. Of the 331,000 such individuals in Iowa, some 33,000 are confined to their homes because of some chronic illness and disability. Another 17,000 are in institutions such as nursing homes and mental hospitals. Many more are isolated from community life, many living in inadequate housing on inadequate income. Some 36,000 Iowa homes are in dilapidated condition without bathroom facilities or running water. And the elderly occupy most of these homes. More than 50 percent are on incomes of less than \$1,500 per year with the average old age assistance grant in Iowa being \$90 per month, and the average Social Security being \$75 per month. Although there are more elderly in nursing and custodial homes in the state than there are penal prisoners, patients at all of the mental institutions and the other institutions under the Board of Control, the latter has the Board of Control looking after their welfare whereas no agency is charged solely with the problems of the aging. Twenty-eight states have commissions on the aging, with varying purposes and powers, but with the main purpose of coordinating the efforts of the particular state in making life more livable for the elderly. In addition to coordinating the efforts of the various state agencies as well as private organizations and individual groups, the proposed commission would be able to provide advice and counseling to the many communities in the state who are showing interest in local action to provide services for the aging. At the present time, requests for help and counseling which have been made to the Governor's Advisory Commission on the Aging must be forwarded to Health, Education and Welfare Office in Kansas City, Missouri, since no Iowa agency exists to provide this service.

Creation of a Commission on the Aging would go a long way toward establishing the state and local community responsibility in this field. The alternative, which is inaction, will inevitably result in the federal government being compelled to preempt the area.

The bill does not create an operating agency, but one which can act basically in the advisory area. Membership is composed of three House members appointed by the Speaker of the House (no more than two of whom shall be appointed from the same political party), three Senators appointed by the President of the Senate (no more than two of whom shall be appointed from the same political party) and seven members to be appointed by the Governor. Terms of the office would be staggered so as to avoid the inefficiency from a large loss of membership.