

2006 HB110 Report Impact on Aging Population

Agency Name: Virginia Department of Forestry

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HB 110 (2006 Session) amended Va. Code § 2.2-5510 to require that each state agency include in its strategic plan “an analysis of the impact that the aging of the population will have on its ability to deliver services and a description of how the agency is responding to these changes.” The bill provides further that “based on guidance from the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, each agency shall report by October 1 of each year to the Governor and to the General Assembly its progress for addressing the impact of the aging of the population in at least five specific actions.”

1. *To the extent such data is available, the number of persons who received services from the agency in the past fiscal year who fell into each of the following age ranges: 65-74; 75-84; and 85 and older. If the agency can provide data that compares such numbers to numbers of senior citizens served in the past, please do so. If the agency lacks specific information about the numbers of senior citizens it serves, but has other evidence indicating that it is serving more or fewer senior citizens than it has in the past, please describe the basis for that estimation.*

The Virginia Department of Forestry (DOF) serves landowners and other citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Our services are available equally to all citizens. The individual citizens we serve are predominately landowners. DOF does not ask citizens to tell us their age at the time they receive our services. Age is not a factor in the services provided.

2. *Identify the agency services that are utilized by senior citizens 65 and older in significant numbers. Indicate whether the agency has the capacity at present to serve all interested seniors or whether the demand for certain services exceeds the agency's capacity. If so, does the agency maintain waiting lists for services?*

As stated in the first question, DOF does not track the age of citizens requesting and utilizing our services. We provide all services equally without regard to age or any other protected characteristic. We generally are able to provide service to any citizen requesting it.

3. *Identify current agency programs, specifically designed to serve seniors 65 and older, that fall into any of the following six categories: Health Care/Wellness; Education; Public Safety; Recreation; Financial Security (including Housing); and Transportation.*

The agency does not have any programs specifically designed to serve seniors age 65 and older. Our services are available equally to all citizens regardless of age.

4. *Identify the extent to which your agency provides “consumer-oriented” publications and websites online that are designed to be “senior-friendly.” If the information you currently provide is not readily accessible to seniors, identify any steps your agency is taking to improve accessibility.*

DOF does not have publications or websites specifically designed for senior citizens. We do ensure all agency public meetings are accessible to everyone. We also provide certain publications in large-print as needed.

When meeting with individual landowners, DOF employees will accommodate the landowners and any physical limitations they have.

5. *Describe any other services or programs that the agency has implemented or plans to implement in the future to address the impact of the aging of Virginia's population.*

At this time, DOF does not have any plans to address the impact of the aging of Virginia's population. DOF does not have services that specifically deal with the health and welfare of senior citizens. Our services are available to all citizens and are not impacted by the age of the recipient.