

**DESCRIPTION OF THE COLORADO COMMISSION ON AGING
ACCORDING TO STATE STATUTE**

THE COLORADO COMMISSION ON AGING CONSIST OF SEVENTEEN MEMBERS APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR, TWO MEMBERS ARE APPOINTED FROM EACH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF THE STATE, ONE OF WHOM SHALL BE FROM EACH MAJOR POLITICAL PARTY, ONE MEMBER SHALL BE APPOINTED FROM THE STATE AT LARGE, ONE MEMBERS SHALL BE APPOINTED FROM AMONG THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SENATE AND ONE MEMBER SHALL BE APPOINTED FROM AMONG THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. NO MORE THAN NINE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE MEMBERS OF THE SAME MAJOR POLITICAL PARTY.

ONE OF SUCH MEMBER SHALL BE FROM WEST OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE.

THE GOVERNOR IS ENCOURAGED TO INCLUDE REPRESENTATION BY AT LEAST ONE MEMBER WHO IS A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY, A FAMILY MEMBER OF A PERSON WITH A DISABILITY, OR A MEMBER OF AN ADVOCACY GROUP FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, PROVIDED THAT THE OTHER REQUIREMENTS ARE MET.

Section 26-11-100.2. Declaration

- (1) The general assembly hereby finds and declares that the older Coloradans constitute a fundamental resource of this state. Often, their competence, experience, and wisdom are underutilized, and a means must be found to use their abilities more effectively for the benefit of all Coloradans. The number of persons in this state sixty years of age or older is increasing rapidly, and, of these persons, the number of women, minorities and persons seventy-five years of age or older is expanding at an even greater rate. Among those persons seventy-five years of age or older, there is a higher incidence of functional disability. The social and health problems of older people are compounded by the lack of access to existing services and by the unavailability of a complete range of services in all areas of the state. The ability of older people to maintain self-sufficiency and personal well-being with the dignity to which their years of labor entitle them and to realize their maximum potential as creative and productive individuals are matters of profound importance and concern for all Coloradans

- (2) The general assembly further declares that it is the policy of this state, To protect older Coloradans from abuse, neglect, or exploitation, to involve older Coloradans in the planning and operation of all programs and services that may affect them; to encourage agencies at all levels of government, as well as in the private sector, to develop alternative services and forms of care

That would facilitate access to other services which support independent living and prevent unnecessary institutionalization; to give priority in planning services and programs to those older Coloradans with the greatest economic need or the greatest social need ; and to facilitate and encourage joint program planning and policy development among state and local agencies which recognize and strengthen the community and personal support networks to which people belong and on which they depend and which administer programs and deliver services to the older population.

Section 26-11-105. Duties of the Commission

- Conduct, and encourage other organizations to conduct, studies of the problems of the state's older people;
- Assist governmental and private agencies to coordinate their efforts on behalf of the aging and aged in order that such efforts be effective and that duplication and waste of effort be eliminated;
- Promote and aid in the establishment of local programs and services for the aging and aged. The commission shall assist governmental and private agencies by designing surveys that may be used locally to determine needs of older people; by recommending the creation of services; by collections and distribution of information on aging; and by assisting public and private organizations in all ways the commission may deem appropriate.
- Conduct promotional activities and programs of public education on problems of the aging;
- Review existing programs for the aging and make recommendations to the governor and the general assembly for improvements in such programs;
- Advise and make recommendation to the state department and the state office on aging, created pursuant to part 2 of this article, on the problems of and programs and services for the aging and aged.

Under Section 26-11-203. Duties of the state office

- (1) (a) To develop and administer a state plan on aging, which includes input from area
Agencies on aging;
- (b) To establish a process that encourages local, regional, and statewide participation in the development stages of the state plan on aging, which shall be coordinated with the area

agencies on aging, the commission established under part 1 of this article,
and other

Persons or entities involved in programs for older persons.

BASED ON THE DESCRIPTION AND DUTIES OF THE COLORADO COMMISSION
ON AGING THE ATTACHED PLANNING DOCUMENT IS A DRAFT WHICH HAS
BEEN AND CONTINUES TO BE DEVELOPED TO IDENTIFY AND ASSIST IN
IMPLEMENTING THE SHORT AND LONG TERM GOALS OF THE COLORADO
COMMISSION ON AGING.