

STATE JUDICIARY 15
SENATE NO. _____
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BILL NO. SB134



John Brenden <senatorbrenden@gmail.com>

Senate Bill 134

1 message

Williams, Kelly (HHS-SLTC) <kewilliams@mt.gov>
To: "senatorbrenden@gmail.com" <senatorbrenden@gmail.com>

Thu, Jan 17, 2013 at 4:20 PM

Dear Senator Brendan

I am writing to let you know the Department-SLTCD would like to share some concerns with the amendment that Senator Vincent was looking to propose to this bill to raise the age from 60 to define an older person under the elder abuse statues.

If this age is increased APS will no longer be able to provide services to individuals under this age, unless they are developmentally disabled. This would mean if the age was increased to 62 that approximately 135 individuals that are between the age of 60 to 62 who are not developmentally disabled and are currently being served by APS would no longer be eligible for APS services. Additionally if the age is increased to 65, approximately 185 individuals between 60 and 65 would no longer be eligible for services that are currently being provided.

Any new referrals for abuse, neglect and exploitation would not be able to be investigated (except for the developmentally disabled) for individuals under the age adopted in the bill to define an older person.

Another potential conflict is that the federal Older Americans Act funding provided to the State, some of which is used at the local level for abuse prevention activities, are targeted to 60 and older individuals. The Federal Elder Justice Act also targets funding to those 60 and older. This change in the age to something different than age 60 to define an older person will create two different standards for what is considered an older person resulting in some confusion for who can be served in these programs.

I left you a message to call me but would be happy to meet with you to discuss these concerns or if there is additional information you are needing from me, please let me know.

Kelly Williams, Administrator

Senior and Long Term Care Davison