Proposal for Legislation – 2023 Legislative Session
Aging Program Cleanup

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1. **What is the problem or issue?**

   The federal Older Americans Act was reauthorized amended in 2019. Corrections are required to the Montana Older American's Act to be consistent with federal authority.

   The number of Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) should be set to ten to maximize federal funding. The funds for the AAAs have not increased in the last seven years. Montana is a minimal allotment state due to our lack of population. Land mass is not considered in the formula. Therefore, currently the $7.5 million of Federal Older Americans Act funding results in $750,000 (roughly) per AAA. If the number of AAAs increases past ten, then the per AAA allotment would be reduced, resulting in a greater need to spend state or local funds to make up the difference. Given the rural and frontier status of the east and high line, fewer AAAs than ten likely would not provide adequate coverage. An interested party could still file a state plan, at the appropriate time, to replace a current provider.

2. **What do you want the legislation to do?**

   MCA for the Older American Act services requires updating.

3. **If possible, please list the MCA (Montana Code Annotated) sections that would need to be amended.**

   The following MCA sections need to be amended: MCA 52-3-406(4), 52-3-404, 52-3-403, and 52-3-603.

4. **If the proposed change requires additional funding, what funding sources do you propose?**

   No. Setting a firm number of AAAs protects MT from dilution of limited funding.

5. **Has similar legislation been requested in the past, been introduced in another state, or provided as a model act? If so, please provide a citation, reference, or point of contact.**

   No