

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Charter Amendment - Renaming the Aging and Adult Services Commission, Department of Aging and Adult Services, and Aging and Adult Services Community Living Fund, and Establishing Qualifications for Three Commission Seats]

Describing and setting forth a proposal to the voters at an election to be held on November 5, 2019, to amend the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco to change the name of the Aging and Adult Services Commission to the Disability and Aging Services Commission, and establish qualifications for three of the Commission seats; change the name of the Department of Aging and Adult Services to the Department of Disability and Aging Services; and to change the name of the Aging and Adult Services Community Living Fund to the Disability and Aging Services Community Living Fund.

Existing Law

Currently, the Charter establishes the Aging and Adult Services Commission (“Commission”), consisting of seven members. The Commission is charged with oversight of the Department of Aging and Adult Services. The Charter does not prescribe qualifications for any of the seven seats on the Commission.

Among other things, the Department of Aging and Adult Services is responsible for administration of the Aging and Adult Services Community Living Fund, which is used primarily for programs and services, including assistance for individuals to age in place in their own homes or in assisted living facilities and supportive housing

Amendments to Current Law

The proposed Charter amendment would change the name of the Aging and Adult Services Commission to the Disability and Aging Services Commission. It would also prescribe qualifications for three of the Commission seats. One of the Commissioners would be required to be a person who is 60 years old or older. One of the Commissioners would be required to be a person with a disability, as defined under the Americans With Disabilities Act, who is 18 years old or older. And one of the Commissioners would be required to be a person who served in the United States military.

The proposed Charter amendment would also change the name of the Department of Aging and Adult Services to the Department of Disability and Aging Services, and would change the name of the Aging and Adult Services Community Living Fund to the Disability and Aging Services Community Living Fund.

Background Information

One in ten San Francisco residents experience disability. The Department of Aging and Adult Services (“DAAS”) is the primary City agency tasked with providing social safety net services to adults with disabilities in San Francisco. However, the Department’s current name does not effectively communicate this role to the community, which inhibits adults with disabilities from accessing services to which they are entitled.

A key finding of the 2018 Dignity Fund Community Needs Assessment was that consumers and service providers encounter several barriers and challenges to accessing services. Adults with disabilities identified an increased navigation challenge because DAAS’ name does not specifically call out adults with disabilities as a population served. This finding was developed through both qualitative research (including forums, focus groups, and a community survey) and quantitative analysis.

n:\legana\as2019\1900515\01362271.docx