



**House Bill 5582 (Substitute H-3)**

**Sponsor: Rep. Kay M. Hart**

**House Bill 5583 (Substitute H-3)**

**Sponsor: Rep. Mary C. Brown**

**First Analysis (5-8-90)**

**Committee: Senior Citizens & Retirement**

**THE APPARENT PROBLEM:**

As more and more women have joined the work force in the last two decades, the care of the very young and the very old — areas once considered solely the responsibility of women — have fallen on society's shoulders. Young parents find it increasingly more difficult to find affordable day care for their children, while, at the same time, as life expectancy rates rise, older citizens struggle not only to maintain their homes against rising property taxes and inflation, but also the problem of having too much time on their hands. The solution, happily, would seem to be to unite these two segments of society in intergenerational day care centers where children could receive loving care from men and women who have the time, skills, and experience to perform this important work. Some 200 agencies across the country have introduced innovative programs that have brought grandparents back into the work force in day care centers that are either located inside existing senior citizen centers, in adjacent facilities, in programs where day care is provided for the children or older relatives of nursing home employees, or in adult care facilities where day care is provided for functionally impaired older persons who require assistance with the activities of daily living. Legislation has been proposed to require the various agencies involved in child and adult day care — the Departments of Social Services, Commerce, Mental Health, and Public Health and the Office of Services to the Aging — to cooperate in the establishment of intergenerational day care centers.

**THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:**

The bills would require the Department of Commerce and the Office of Services to the Aging to cooperate in the establishment of an intergenerational day care center program to provide opportunities for children and older persons to benefit from interaction with each other. Under the bills, an "intergenerational day care center" would mean a child care center or day care center, as defined in the child care licensing act, that provided opportunities for older persons and children to interact, or a center for the daytime care of functionally impaired older persons through a structured program of social, rehabilitative, or maintenance services that included regular interaction with children. Intergenerational day care would include, but not be limited to:

- Children's day care centers and adult day care centers located in the same facility, or adjacent facilities, that offered programs that combined the generations.
- Children's day care centers that used older persons as workers and volunteers.
- Day care that was provided at a nursing home for the children of employees, or for older persons related to

employees of the nursing home, and that incorporated programs that combined the generations.

- Day care that was provided for the children of employees or for older persons related to employees at a workplace or at other facilities, that offered programs that combine the generations, and that was established through the joint efforts of employers, the office, and area agencies on aging. The bills are tie-barred to each other.

House Bill 5582 would create the Intergenerational Day Care Center Act and would require the Department of Commerce to establish an intergenerational day care center program. In order to implement the act, the department would be required to do the following:

- Consult with the Departments of Social Services, Mental Health and Public Health in setting up the program.
- Cooperate with the Office of Services to the Aging in encouraging businesses and older persons to join together in the provision of child care.
- Develop a grant program to encourage businesses to furnish space for intergenerational day care centers or to establish such centers for their employees. Using money appropriated by the legislature, or available from any other source, the department would award grants that could be used for salaries, supplies, and other operating expenses of the day care centers.
- Distribute information to Michigan businesses regarding the availability of such grants, and the availability of older persons as child care workers or as volunteers for employer-provided child care centers.
- Promulgate rules under the Administrative Procedures Act to provide for application procedures for grants, criteria for the awarding of grants, and other matters necessary to implement the program.

House Bill 5583 would amend the Older Michiganians Act to require the Office of Services to the Aging to establish an intergenerational day care program. The office would be required to consult with the Departments of Social Services, Public Health and Mental Health in setting up the program, and would do all of the following:

- Encourage older persons to serve as volunteers and child care workers at the centers.
- Encourage — in conjunction with the area agencies on aging — senior centers that had available space for day care to offer the space for intergenerational day care centers.
- Explore with nursing homes the possibility of locating intergenerational child care centers in nursing home facilities.
- Cooperate with the Department of Commerce to establish intergenerational day care centers in facilities

provided by businesses or for the employees of businesses in senior centers or other locations.

- Encourage the directors of adult day care programs to provide activities that included interaction with children.

The provisions of the bill would be repealed effective April 1, 1993.

MCL 400.586

### ***FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:***

According to the Department of Commerce, fiscal information on the bill is not yet available. (5-7-90)

### ***ARGUMENTS:***

#### ***For:***

The concept of intergenerational day care is a simple yet eminently sensible one. Those child care centers that have experimented with intergenerational day care programs have reported enormous success: not only do the programs help solve the problem of the shortage of child care centers and — if located in adult care centers — make these centers more cost effective, both generations involved would seem to benefit in ways that cannot be measured financially. Older citizens who often had too much time on their hands now feel productive and needed; and the gap between the generations is bridged for children who may otherwise have had little contact with older people. The concept also allows for wide variations: programs could be established in senior centers, adult care centers, in rural hospitals, or — with the cooperation of the Department of Commerce — in facilities provided by businesses for their employees. The benefits would also be varied: the programs could be especially beneficial for single parent families with little formal family structure; for latch key children; or for teenage parents and their children.

#### ***Against:***

Although the bill would authorize the Department of Commerce to develop a grant program to encourage businesses to furnish space for or establish intergenerational day care centers for their employees, the bill would do nothing to ensure that older adults employed in the centers received adequate training. Also, since there is a possibility that the older adults who work at these centers could be viewed as "cheap labor" and a means of displacing regular staff, the bill should establish guidelines that would require the Office of Services to the Aging or the Department of Social Services to establish certification and licensing standards for the centers.

### ***POSITIONS:***

The Department of Social Services supports the bill. (5-3-90)

The Office of Services to the Aging has no position on the bill. (5-3-90)

The Department of Commerce has no position on the bill. (5-7-90)

The Department of Mental Health has no position on the bill. (5-7-90)

The Department of Public Health has no position on the bill. (5-7-90)