

Gunston Hall
Agency 417
November 15, 2007

**Report on the Response of Gunston Hall to the Impact of the
Aging of Virginia's Population
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HB 110 Reporting Requirements Gunston Hall, Agency 417

“. . .an analysis of the impact that the aging of the population will have on its ability to deliver services and a description of how the agency is responding to these changes” . . .

Gunston Hall is an educational historic site, the home of George Mason. Services provided to the public include tours of the historic structure; tour content information includes George Mason's contributions to the formation of this country, the architecture of his home, and 18th-century life in general.

Approximately 20% of the visitors to Gunston Hall are senior citizens. No breakdown of specific ages is kept of visitation data; visitors over 60 are given discounted admission. The number of senior citizens served has remained roughly the same.

In addition to daily guided tours, Gunston Hall offers seminars and special events throughout the year, which are accessible to the visiting public, senior citizens as well as others. Gunston Hall's library is also available to visitors and is handicapped accessible. No specific services are directed to senior citizens.

The physical buildings and grounds are accessible; wheelchair access to the historic structure is available to the first floor only and currently is via a ramp. The agency is currently working with an architect to develop plans to install an elevator to improve access to the first floor of the historic property with minimal intrusion on the integrity of the structure.

Most current publications are geared to the standards of learning and to school children. Gunston Hall offers an introductory film and the theater is easily accessible. This film provides an introduction to George Mason. Our website is user friendly.

Gunston Hall plans to continue improving its exhibits and accessibility, not only for senior citizens, but all visitors.

Gunston Hall has a small workforce which includes both full and part time state employees as well as employees of the site's private foundation and volunteers. Many of these individuals, paid and volunteer, are retired and spend several hours per week at Gunston Hall. We do not anticipate aging to adversely affect this group of workers. We are looking at ways to cross train individuals and prepare written policies and procedures to assist in replacing individuals in key positions in the organization. Because of the small size of the staff, this is a challenge.

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Pursuant to legislation enacted by the Virginia General Assembly of Virginia, Gunston Hall submits this report of its progress in addressing the impact of the aging of Virginia's population.

David L. Reese
Director

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