

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 913

To amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to establish an initiative, carried out by the Assistant Secretary for Aging, to coordinate Federal efforts and programs for home modifications enabling older individuals to live independently and safely in a home environment, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 24, 2017

Mr. KING (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. SCHATZ) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to establish an initiative, carried out by the Assistant Secretary for Aging, to coordinate Federal efforts and programs for home modifications enabling older individuals to live independently and safely in a home environment, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Senior Home Modifica-
5 tion Assistance Initiative Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. SENIOR HOME MODIFICATION ASSISTANCE INITIA-**
 2 **TIVE.**

3 The Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001
 4 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

5 **“TITLE VIII—SENIOR HOME**
 6 **MODIFICATION ASSISTANCE**
 7 **INITIATIVE**

8 **“SEC. 801. SENIOR HOME MODIFICATION ASSISTANCE INI-**
 9 **TIATIVE.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Secretary shall es-
 11 tablish and carry out an initiative under this section to
 12 coordinate Federal resources to provide home modifica-
 13 tions for older individuals to support enabling such indi-
 14 viduals to live independently and safely in a home environ-
 15 ment.

16 “(b) COORDINATION OF FEDERAL EFFORTS.—In
 17 carrying out the initiative under this section, the Assistant
 18 Secretary shall, through memoranda of understanding,
 19 agreements, or other appropriate means of coordination,
 20 coordinate all Federal efforts and Federal programs exist-
 21 ing prior to the date of enactment of the Senior Home
 22 Modification Assistance Initiative Act that support home
 23 assessments and home modifications for older individuals.

24 “(c) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date
 25 of enactment of the Senior Home Modification Assistance

1 Initiative Act, and annually thereafter, the Assistant Sec-
2 retary shall publish a report that includes—

3 “(1) an inventory of Federal programs that
4 support home assessments and home modifications
5 for older individuals;

6 “(2) for the fiscal year of the report, statistical
7 data on the number of older individuals served by
8 each Federal program described in paragraph (1)
9 and the approximate amount of Federal funding in-
10 vested in each such program;

11 “(3) a demographic analysis of individuals
12 served by each such program during the fiscal year
13 of the report;

14 “(4) an analysis of duplication and gaps in pop-
15 ulations supported by the Federal programs de-
16 scribed in paragraph (1); and

17 “(5) an evaluation of the impact of Federal
18 home modification efforts and programs on health
19 status and health outcomes in populations supported
20 by such efforts and programs.

21 “(d) LOCAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Secretary
23 shall, through the National Eldercare Locator Serv-
24 ice established under section 202(a)(21), identify
25 and publish an educational brochure on home modi-

1 fications and repairs for use by older individuals at-
2 tempting to live independently and safely in their
3 homes and the caregivers of such individuals.

4 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The brochure published
5 under paragraph (1) shall—

6 “(A) be written in consumer-friendly lan-
7 guage;

8 “(B) include information on the value of
9 home modifications to ensure a safe living envi-
10 ronment as individuals age;

11 “(C) include simple advice on common
12 types of home modification that boost safety
13 and livability; and

14 “(D) include references to Federal re-
15 sources available to help offset the cost of home
16 repairs or modifications and where those re-
17 sources can typically be accessed locally.

18 “(3) DISTRIBUTION.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The brochure pub-
20 lished under paragraph (1) shall be distributed
21 widely throughout the aging network, using the
22 National Eldercare Locator Service, with State
23 agencies, area agencies on aging, and commu-
24 nity-based service providers disseminating the
25 brochure to older individuals and caregivers.

1 “(B) CUSTOMIZATION.—The Assistant
2 Secretary shall encourage State agencies, area
3 agencies on aging, and community-based service
4 providers to customize the brochure to include
5 available non-Federal resources.

6 “(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
7 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
8 as may be necessary for the production and dissemi-
9 nation of the brochure published under paragraph
10 (1).”.

○