

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1536

To amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to support healthy aging and age-friendly communities.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 16, 2019

Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. BOOZMAN) 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 support healthy aging and age-friendly communities.

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 “Age-Friendly Commu-
5 nities Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON**
2 **HEALTHY AGING AND AGE-FRIENDLY COM-**
3 **MUNITIES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 203(c) of the Older Amer-
5 icans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3013(c)) is amended to read
6 as follows:

7 “(c)(1) The Secretary, in collaboration with other
8 Federal officials specified in paragraph (2)(A), shall estab-
9 lish—

10 “(A) in accordance with paragraph (2), an
11 Interagency Coordinating Committee on Healthy
12 Aging and Age-Friendly Communities to develop a
13 national set of goals, in accordance with subpara-
14 graph (G) of such paragraph, to support the ability
15 of older individuals to age in place and access pre-
16 ventive health care, promote age-friendly commu-
17 nities, and address the ability of older individuals to
18 access long-term care supports, including access to
19 caregivers and home- and community-based health
20 services; and

21 “(B) in accordance with paragraph (3), a pub-
22 lic-private coordinating body to provide recommenda-
23 tions for implementing such goals and to develop
24 best practices for public sector stakeholders or pri-
25 vate sector stakeholders that are related to such
26 goals.

1 “(2)(A) The officials referred to in paragraph (1)
2 shall be the members of the Committee, which shall in-
3 clude the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the
4 Assistant Secretary for Aging, the Chief Executive Officer
5 of the Corporation for National and Community Service,
6 the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commis-
7 sion, the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and
8 Prevention, the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare
9 & Medicaid Services, the Director of the National Institute
10 on Aging, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of
11 Labor, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development,
12 the Secretary of Transportation, and the Secretary of Vet-
13 erans Affairs, and may include, at the direction of the
14 President, the Attorney General, the Secretary of the
15 Treasury, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Com-
16 missioner of Social Security, the Secretary of the Federal
17 Trade Commission, and such other Federal officials as the
18 President may direct.

19 “(B) An official described in subparagraph (A) may
20 appoint a designee to carry out the official’s duties under
21 this subsection.

22 “(C) The Secretary of Health and Human Services
23 shall serve as the first chairperson of the Committee for
24 1 term. After that term, the Committee shall select a
25 chairperson from among the members of the Committee,

1 and any member may serve as the chairperson. No mem-
 2 ber may serve as the chairperson for more than 1 consec-
 3 tive term.

4 “(D) The chairperson shall designate an executive of-
 5 ficer who shall facilitate communication between the Com-
 6 mittee and the public-private coordinating body estab-
 7 lished under paragraph (1)(B). Each member of the Com-
 8 mittee shall provide to the executive officer a designated
 9 point of contact responsible for assisting in and carrying
 10 out any functions and duties assigned to the Committee.

11 “(E) For purposes of this subsection, a term shall
 12 be a period of 2 calendar years. The first term shall start
 13 1 year after the date of enactment of the Age-Friendly
 14 Communities Act of 2019.

15 “(F) The Committee shall meet not less often than
 16 biannually.

17 “(G)(i) The goals required under paragraph (1)(A)
 18 may include—

19 “(I) improving coordination among Federal
 20 agencies with responsibility for programs and serv-
 21 ices that impact older individuals;

22 “(II) identifying, promoting, and implementing
 23 (as appropriate) best practices and evidence-based
 24 program and service models to assist older individ-

1 uals in meeting their housing, health care, and other
2 supportive service needs;

3 “(III) effectively collecting and disseminating
4 information about older individuals and the pro-
5 grams and services available to the individuals to en-
6 sure that the individuals can access comprehensive
7 information;

8 “(IV) adequately assisting States in better pro-
9 viding housing, health care, and other supportive
10 services to older individuals;

11 “(V) ensuring the continued collection of data
12 relating to the housing, health care, and other sup-
13 portive service needs of older individuals and sup-
14 porting efforts to identify and address unmet data
15 needs; and

16 “(VI) identifying any barriers and impediments,
17 including barriers and impediments in statutory and
18 regulatory law, to the access and use by older indi-
19 viduals of federally funded programs and services.

20 “(ii) Not later than the last day of the Committee’s
21 first term, the Committee shall publicly post and dissemi-
22 nate the goals required under paragraph (1)(A). Not later
23 than the last day of each term following the first term
24 of the Committee, the Committee shall update such goals
25 and publicly post and disseminate such updated goals.

1 “(iii) In developing and updating such goals, the
2 Committee shall actively seek input from and consult with
3 public sector stakeholders and private sector stakeholders,
4 and shall coordinate with and consider recommendations
5 from other working groups, advisory boards, or inter-
6 agency entities established by law.

7 “(3)(A) Not later than 3 years after the date of en-
8 actment of the Age-Friendly Communities Act of 2019,
9 the Committee shall establish a public-private coordinating
10 body to provide recommendations for implementing the
11 goals developed and updated by the Committee under
12 paragraph (2) and to develop best practices for public sec-
13 tor stakeholders or private sector stakeholders related to
14 such goals.

15 “(B) The coordinating body shall be co-chaired by
16 one head or deputy of a Federal agency described in para-
17 graph (2)(A) who is appointed by the Committee, and 1
18 representative of a private sector stakeholder whom the
19 Committee invites to serve on the coordinating body.

20 “(C) Based on the goals developed and updated by
21 the Committee under paragraph (2), the Committee
22 shall—

23 “(i) determinate the structure of the coordi-
24 nating body;

1 “(ii) invite public sector stakeholders to serve
2 on the coordinating body, including representatives
3 from the Federal Government and State and local
4 governments; and

5 “(iii) invite private sector stakeholders to serve
6 on the coordinating body, aiming for diversity in
7 stakeholders serving on the coordinating body, in-
8 cluding geographic diversity of stakeholders.

9 “(D) Not later than 2 years after the coordinating
10 body is established under this paragraph, and every year
11 thereafter, the coordinating body shall provide to the Com-
12 mittee, and the public, a report on implementing the goals
13 developed and updated by the Committee under paragraph
14 (2), on ways for updating such goals, and on best practices
15 for public sector stakeholders and private sector stake-
16 holders related to such goals.

17 “(E) The coordinating body shall not be subject to
18 the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5
19 U.S.C. App.) if the coordinating body establishes a proce-
20 dure approved by the Committee for avoiding conflicts of
21 interest.

22 “(4) In this subsection—

23 “(A) the term ‘age-friendly community’ means
24 a community that—

25 “(i) is taking measurable steps to—

1 “(I) include adequate and accessible
 2 housing, accessible spaces and buildings,
 3 safe and secure paths, variable route trans-
 4 portation services, and programs and serv-
 5 ices designed to maintain health and well-
 6 being;

7 “(II) respect and include older indi-
 8 viduals in social opportunities, civic partici-
 9 pation, volunteerism, and employment; and

10 “(III) facilitate access to supportive
 11 services for older individuals;

12 “(ii) is not an assisted living facility or a
 13 long-term care facility; and

14 “(iii) has a plan in place to meet local
 15 needs for housing, transportation, civic partici-
 16 pation, social connectedness, and accessible
 17 spaces;

18 “(B) the term ‘Committee’ means the Inter-
 19 agency Coordinating Committee on Healthy Aging
 20 and Age-Friendly Communities established under
 21 paragraph (1)(A);

22 “(C) the term ‘private sector stakeholder’—

23 “(i) means a stakeholder with an interest
 24 in aging and that is not a representative of the

1 Federal Government or a State or local govern-
 2 ment agency or office; and

3 “(ii) includes an entity, meeting the re-
 4 quirements under clause (i), that is a nonprofit
 5 organization, academic or research institution,
 6 faith- or community-based organization, philan-
 7 thropic organization, or other entity supporting
 8 age-friendly communities; and

9 “(D) the term ‘public sector stakeholder’ means
 10 a stakeholder with an interest in aging and that is
 11 a representative of the Federal Government or a
 12 State or local government agency or office.”.

13 (b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDING AGE-
 14 FRIENDLY INITIATIVES.—Section 205(a)(2) of such Act
 15 (42 U.S.C. 3016(a)(2)) is amended—

16 (1) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as sub-
 17 paragraph (D); and

18 (2) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the fol-
 19 lowing:

20 “(C) The Assistant Secretary may provide technical
 21 assistance, including through the regional offices of the
 22 Administration, to State agencies, area agencies on aging,
 23 local government agencies, or leaders in age-friendly com-
 24 munities (as defined in section 203(c)(4)) regarding—

1 “(i) support for public sector stakeholders and
2 private sector stakeholders in building partnerships
3 to promote such age-friendly communities;

4 “(ii) dissemination of, or consideration of ways
5 to implement, best practices and recommendations
6 from the public-private coordinating body established
7 under section 203(c)(1)(B); and

8 “(iii) methods of leveraging resources to meet
9 the needs of growing age-friendly communities.”.

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