

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2922

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 24, 2021

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

AN ACT

To amend the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act to authorize the Elder Justice Initiative, to require that online resources of such initiative are made available in Spanish, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Elder Abuse Protection
3 Act of 2021”.

4 **SEC. 2. ELDER JUSTICE INITIATIVE.**

5 Section 101(b) of the Elder Abuse Prevention and
6 Prosecution Act (34 U.S.C. 21711(b)) is amended to read
7 as follows:

8 “(b) ELDER JUSTICE INITIATIVE.—

9 “(1) PERMANENT INITIATIVE.—The Attorney
10 General shall establish an Elder Justice Initiative to
11 coordinate criminal enforcement and public engage-
12 ment efforts to combat elder abuse, neglect, and fi-
13 nancial fraud and scams that target elders, and to
14 support and coordinate the efforts of the Elder Jus-
15 tice Coordinator designated under subsection (a).

16 “(2) DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ELDER JUSTICE
17 COORDINATOR.—The Attorney General shall des-
18 ignate an Elder Justice Coordinator within the De-
19 partment of Justice who, in addition to any other re-
20 sponsibilities, shall be responsible for—

21 “(A) coordinating and supporting the law
22 enforcement efforts and policy activities as the
23 head of the Elder Justice Initiative for the De-
24 partment of Justice on elder justice issues;

25 “(B) evaluating training models to deter-
26 mine best practices and creating or compiling

1 and making publicly available replication guides
2 and training materials for law enforcement offi-
3 cers, prosecutors, judges, emergency respond-
4 ers, individuals working in victim services, adult
5 protective services, social services, and public
6 safety, medical personnel, mental health per-
7 sonnel, financial services personnel, and any
8 other individuals whose work may bring them in
9 contact with elder abuse regarding how to—

10 “(i) conduct investigations in elder
11 abuse cases;

12 “(ii) address evidentiary issues and
13 other legal issues; and

14 “(iii) appropriately assess, respond to,
15 and interact with victims and witnesses in
16 elder abuse cases, including in administra-
17 tive, civil, and criminal judicial pro-
18 ceedings; and

19 “(C) carrying out such other duties as the
20 Attorney General determines necessary in con-
21 nection with enhancing the understanding, pre-
22 vention, and detection of, and response to, elder
23 abuse.

24 “(3) ONLINE PUBLIC RESOURCES.—The Elder
25 Justice Initiative shall maintain and publish on the

1 internet, information aimed at protecting elders
2 from fraudulent schemes and contain resources
3 aimed at preventing elder abuse.

4 “(4) TELEPHONE HOTLINE.—The Attorney
5 General, in consultation with the Elder Justice Coordi-
6 nator and the Office of Victims of Crime, shall es-
7 tablish a national elder fraud telephone hotline to
8 provide support to victims and resources to help vic-
9 tims, including referrals to federal, local and state
10 law enforcement where appropriate.

11 “(5) TRIBAL CONSULTATION.—The Elder Jus-
12 tice Coordinator shall provide recommendations to
13 the Office of Tribal Justice on a yearly basis on how
14 to address elder abuse and elder fraud that takes
15 place on federally recognized tribal reservations.

16 “(6) LEGAL AID.—The Elder Justice Coordi-
17 nator shall consult with components of the Depart-
18 ment of Justice to promote the provision of civil
19 legal aid to victims of elder abuse and elder fraud.

20 “(7) SPANISH LANGUAGE RESOURCES.—The
21 Attorney General shall ensure that Elder Justice
22 Initiative online resources are available in Spanish
23 and link linguistically appropriate resources to in-
24 form Spanish-speaking elders of Federal and State

1 resources to combat fraud and abuse that targets
2 the elderly, to include—

3 “(A) Spanish-language resources and links
4 that help report instances of elder fraud and
5 abuse to State and local law enforcement; and

6 “(B) resources that help prevent financial
7 exploitation of elders.”.

Passed the House of Representatives June 23, 2021.

Attest: CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.