

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 3555

To amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to establish the Office of Older LGBT Policy and a rural outreach grant program carried out by such Office, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 5, 2018

Mr. CASEY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to establish the Office of Older LGBT Policy and a rural outreach grant program carried out by such Office, 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 “Elder Pride Act of  
5 2018”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 Section 102 of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42  
8 U.S.C. 3002) is amended—

1           (1) by redesignating paragraphs (34) through  
2           (40) and paragraphs (41) through (54) as para-  
3           graphs (35) through (41) and paragraphs (43)  
4           through (56), respectively;

5           (2) by inserting after paragraph (33) the fol-  
6           lowing:

7           “(34) The term ‘LGBT’ means lesbian, gay, bi-  
8           sexual, or transgender.”; and

9           (3) by inserting after paragraph (41), as so re-  
10          designated, the following:

11          “(42) The term ‘older LGBT individual’ means  
12          an older individual that identifies as LGBT.”.

13 **SEC. 3. OFFICE OF OLDER LGBT POLICY.**

14          (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

15           (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 201 of the Older  
16          Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3011) is amend-  
17          ed by adding at the end the following:

18          “(g)(1) There is established in the Administration an  
19          Office of Older LGBT Policy (referred to in this sub-  
20          section as the ‘Office’).

21          “(2) The Office shall be headed by a Director of the  
22          Office of Older LGBT Policy (referred to in this sub-  
23          section as the ‘Director’) who shall be appointed by the  
24          Secretary.

25          “(3) The Director shall—

1           “(A) coordinate activities within the Depart-  
2           ment of Health and Human Services, and between  
3           other Federal departments and agencies, to assure a  
4           continuum of improved services for older LGBT in-  
5           dividuals;

6           “(B) serve as the effective and visible advocate  
7           on behalf of older LGBT individuals—

8                   “(i) within the Department of Health and  
9                   Human Services and with other departments  
10                  and agencies of the Federal Government re-  
11                  garding all Federal policies affecting such indi-  
12                  viduals; and

13                   “(ii) in the States to promote the enhanced  
14                  delivery of services and implementation of pro-  
15                  grams, under this Act and other Federal Acts,  
16                  for the benefit of such individuals;

17           “(C) support, conduct, and arrange for research  
18           in the field of LGBT aging with a special emphasis  
19           on gathering statistics on older LGBT individuals;

20           “(D) collect and disseminate information re-  
21           lated to challenges experienced by older LGBT indi-  
22           viduals with an emphasis on the challenges experi-  
23           enced by older LGBT individuals residing in rural  
24           areas and older LGBT individuals living with human

1 immunodeficiency virus and acquired immune defi-  
 2 ciency syndrome (HIV/AIDS);

3 “(E) recommend policies and priorities bene-  
 4 ficial to older LGBT individuals and promote the  
 5 implementation and adoption of culturally competent  
 6 care and services for such individuals; and

7 “(F) administer and evaluate grants that will  
 8 help older LGBT individuals, including grants under  
 9 section 423.

10 “(4) Not later than January 31 of fiscal year 2023  
 11 and of each fifth fiscal year thereafter, the Director shall  
 12 submit to Congress a report describing the activities car-  
 13 ried out under this subsection during the preceding 5 fis-  
 14 cal years.”.

15 **SEC. 4. RURAL OUTREACH GRANT PROGRAM.**

16 Part A of title IV of the Older Americans Act of 1965  
 17 (42 U.S.C. 3032 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
 18 the following:

19 **“SEC. 423. RURAL OUTREACH GRANT PROGRAM.**

20 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21 “(1) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means  
 22 the Director of the Office of Older LGBT Policy, es-  
 23 tablished under section 201(g).

24 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-  
 25 tity’—

1           “(A) means an entity that submits an ap-  
2           plication to the Director in accordance with  
3           subsection (d), and is—

4                   “(i) a State; or

5                   “(ii) an agency, organization, or insti-  
6           tution that focuses on serving the needs of  
7           older individuals or LGBT individuals; and

8           “(B) may include an area agency on aging  
9           for a rural area or a multipurpose senior cen-  
10          ter.

11          “(3) RURAL AREA.—The term ‘rural area’  
12          means an area that is not designated by the United  
13          States Census Bureau as an urbanized area or  
14          urban cluster.

15          “(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to  
16          provide eligible entities with resources and incentives to  
17          devise a long-term comprehensive strategy for connecting  
18          with older LGBT individuals residing in rural areas and  
19          meeting the needs of such individuals.

20          “(c) AUTHORITY FOR GRANTS.—The Director may,  
21          for the purpose described in subsection (b), make grants  
22          to eligible entities to carry out activities approved by the  
23          Director in accordance with subsection (e).

24          “(d) APPLICATIONS.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity seeking a  
2 grant under this section shall submit an application  
3 to the Director at such time, in such manner, and  
4 containing such information as the Director may  
5 reasonably require, including the contents described  
6 in paragraph (2).

7           “(2) CONTENTS.—An application for a grant  
8 under this section shall contain—

9                   “(A) a description of the proposed activi-  
10 ties to be supported by the grant;

11                   “(B) a description of the size and charac-  
12 teristics of the population in a rural area served  
13 by such activities;

14                   “(C) a description of the public and private  
15 resources expected to be made available in con-  
16 nection with such activities;

17                   “(D) a demonstrated intent to partner  
18 with local organizations in rural areas in car-  
19 rying out such activities;

20                   “(E) evidence in a form acceptable to the  
21 Director that such activities will meet urgent  
22 needs that are not met by available public and  
23 private sources; and

24                   “(F) such other information or certifi-  
25 cations that the Director determines necessary

1 to achieve the purpose described in subsection  
2 (b).

3 “(e) APPROVED ACTIVITIES.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A grant under this section  
5 shall be available only for activities approved by the  
6 Director to carry out a strategy designed to create  
7 a cooperative and lasting partnership between older  
8 LGBT individuals residing in rural areas and the el-  
9 igible entity receiving the grant.

10 “(2) APPROVED ACTIVITIES.—Activities ap-  
11 proved by the Director may include initiatives that—

12 “(A) engage in education and training  
13 around community outreach to older LGBT in-  
14 dividuals residing in rural areas;

15 “(B) reduce isolation and improve access  
16 to care for older LGBT individuals residing in  
17 rural areas by building relationships between  
18 such individuals and the local community;

19 “(C) foster relationships between local  
20 LGBT-affirming service providers and older  
21 LGBT individuals residing in rural areas;

22 “(D) improve LGBT cultural competency  
23 among organizations and personnel providing  
24 services to older individuals residing in rural  
25 areas; and

1                   “(E) expand the use of non-discrimination  
2 policies that—

3                   “(i) protect sexual orientation and  
4 gender identity; and

5                   “(ii) create community spaces that are  
6 inclusive to older LGBT individuals.

7           “(f) STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES.—The Director  
8 shall establish standards and guidelines for approved ac-  
9 tivities supported by a grant under this section. Such  
10 standards and guidelines shall permit an eligible entity re-  
11 ceiving such a grant to refine or adapt the standards and  
12 guidelines for an individual project, where such a refine-  
13 ment or adaptation is made necessary by a local cir-  
14 cumstance.

15           “(g) COORDINATION WITH LOCAL ENTITIES.—

16                   “(1) COOPERATION.—An eligible entity receiv-  
17 ing a grant under this section shall, in carrying out  
18 the approved activities supported by the grant, agree  
19 to cooperate and coordinate with—

20                   “(A) the agencies of the relevant State and  
21 local governments responsible for providing  
22 services to older LGBT individuals in the area  
23 served by such activities; and

1           “(B) other public and private organizations  
2           and agencies providing services for older LGBT  
3           individuals in such area.

4           “(2) PRIORITIZATION.—An eligible entity re-  
5           ceiving a grant under this section shall prioritize co-  
6           operating and coordinating with public and private  
7           organizations and agencies that primarily serve eco-  
8           nomically underserved populations, as determined by  
9           the Director.

10          “(h) REPORTS.—Not later than January 31 of fiscal  
11          year 2020, and of each second fiscal year thereafter, the  
12          Director shall submit to Congress a report describing the  
13          activities carried out under this section during the pre-  
14          ceding 2 fiscal years.”.

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