

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4827

To amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to enhance age-friendly communities for older individuals.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 23, 2019

Mr. CRIST introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

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## A BILL

To amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to enhance age-friendly communities for older individuals.

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 “Building Age-Friendly  
5 Communities Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON**  
7 **AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES.**

8 Section 203 of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42  
9 U.S.C. 3013) is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (b)—

1 (A) in paragraph (18) by striking “and” at  
2 the end,

3 (B) in paragraph (19) by striking the pe-  
4 riod at the end, and inserting “, and”, and

5 (C) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(20) section 393D of the Public Health Serv-  
7 ice Act (42 U.S.C. 280b–1f), relating to safety of  
8 seniors.”, and

9 (2) in subsection (c)—

10 (A) in paragraph (1)—

11 (i) by striking “Aging” and inserting  
12 “Age-Friendly Communities”, and

13 (ii) by inserting “to support the abil-  
14 ity of older individuals to age in place, in-  
15 cluding through the provision of homeless-  
16 ness prevention services, support the abil-  
17 ity of older individuals to access preventive  
18 health care, promote age-friendly commu-  
19 nities, and address the ability of older indi-  
20 viduals to access long-term care supports,  
21 including access to caregivers and home-  
22 and community-based services” before the  
23 period at the end,

24 (B) in paragraph (4) by inserting “, except  
25 that the first term of a member appointed to

1 the Interagency Coordinating Committee on  
2 Age-Friendly Communities shall begin not later  
3 than 1 year after the date of the enactment of  
4 the effective date of this exception” before the  
5 period at the end,

6 (C) in paragraph (5) by striking “once  
7 each year” and inserting “semiannually”,

8 (D) in paragraph (6)—

9 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

10 (I) in clause (iii) by striking

11 “and” at the end,

12 (II) in clause (iv) by adding

13 “and” at the end, and

14 (III) by adding at the end the

15 following:

16 “(v) identifying best practices for con-  
17 necting older individuals to services for which  
18 they may be eligible;”,

19 (ii) by amending subparagraph (B)(ii)

20 to read as follows:

21 “(ii) innovations in technology applications  
22 (including assistance technology devices and as-  
23 sistance technology services) that—

24 “(I) promote safe and accessible inde-  
25 pendent living environments; and

1                   “(II) give older individuals access to  
2                   information on available services or help in  
3                   providing services to older individuals;”,

4                   (E) in subparagraph (E) by striking “non-  
5                   governmental experts and organizations, includ-  
6                   ing public health interest and research groups  
7                   and foundations” and inserting “nongovern-  
8                   mental organizations, academic or research in-  
9                   stitutions, community-based organizations, and  
10                  philanthropic organizations”,

11                  (F) by redesignating subparagraphs (E),  
12                  (F), and (G) as subparagraphs (F), (G), and  
13                  (H), respectively,

14                  (G) by inserting after subparagraph (D)  
15                  the following:

16                  “(E) work with the Centers for Disease Control  
17                  and Prevention, the National Institute on Aging,  
18                  Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the  
19                  Housing and Urban Development Office of Lead  
20                  Hazard Control and Healthy Homes, and other Fed-  
21                  eral agencies as appropriate, to develop rec-  
22                  ommendations, in accordance with paragraph (1), to  
23                  reduce falls among older individuals that incorporate  
24                  evidence-based falls prevention programs and home  
25                  modifications to reduce and prevent falls;”, and

1 (H) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(9) In this subsection, the term ‘age-friendly com-  
3 munity’ means a community that—

4 “(A) is taking steps—

5 “(i) to include accessible housing, acces-  
6 sible spaces and buildings, safe and secure  
7 paths, variable route transportation services,  
8 and programs and services designed to maintain  
9 health and well-being;

10 “(ii) to respect and include older individ-  
11 uals in social opportunities, civic participation,  
12 volunteerism, and employment; and

13 “(iii) to facilitate access to supportive serv-  
14 ices for older individuals; and

15 “(B) has a plan in place to meet local needs for  
16 housing, transportation, civic participation, social  
17 connectedness, and accessible spaces.”.

18 **SEC. 3. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON AGE-FRIENDLY COM-**  
19 **MUNITIES.**

20 Section 205(a)(2) of the Older Americans Act of  
21 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3016(a)(2)) is amended—

22 (1) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as sub-  
23 paragraph (D), and

24 (2) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the fol-  
25 lowing:

1       “(C) The Assistant Secretary may provide technical  
2 assistance, including through the regional offices of the  
3 Administration, to State agencies, area agencies on aging,  
4 local government agencies, or leaders in age-friendly com-  
5 munities (as defined in section 203(c)(9)) regarding—

6           “(i) dissemination of, or consideration of ways  
7 to implement, best practices and recommendations  
8 from the Interagency Coordinating Committee on  
9 Age-Friendly Communities established under section  
10 203(c); and

11          “(ii) methods for managing and coordinating  
12 existing programs to meet the needs of growing age-  
13 friendly communities.”.

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