

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1225

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.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 29, 2019

Mr. CASEY 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 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 2019”.

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 Assistant 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 5 years after the date of enact-
 11 ment of the Elder Pride Act of 2019, and every 5 years
 12 thereafter, the Director shall submit to Congress a report
 13 describing the activities carried out under this subsection
 14 during the preceding 5 fiscal 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 nondiscrimination
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 nomicallly underserved populations, as determined by
9 the Director.

10 “(h) REPORTS.—Not later than 2 years after the
11 date of enactment of the Elder Pride Act of 2019, and
12 every 2 years thereafter, the Director shall submit to Con-
13 gress a report describing the activities carried out under
14 this section during the preceding 2 fiscal years.”.

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