

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 702

To amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to establish an initiative, carried out by the Assistant Secretary for Aging, to coordinate Federal efforts and programs for home modifications enabling older individuals and individuals with disabilities to live independently and safely in a home environment, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 7, 2019

Mr. KING (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. WARREN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and 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 an initiative, carried out by the Assistant Secretary for Aging, to coordinate Federal efforts and programs for home modifications enabling older individuals and individuals with disabilities to live independently and safely in a home environment, 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 “Senior and Disability
5 Home Modification Assistance Initiative Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. SENIOR HOME MODIFICATION ASSISTANCE INITIA-**
 2 **TIVE.**

3 The Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001
 4 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

5 **“TITLE VIII—SENIOR AND DIS-**
 6 **ABILITY HOME MODIFICA-**
 7 **TION ASSISTANCE INITIATIVE**

8 **“SEC. 801. SENIOR AND DISABILITY HOME MODIFICATION**
 9 **ASSISTANCE INITIATIVE.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Secretary shall es-
 11 tablish and carry out an initiative under this section to
 12 coordinate Federal resources to provide home modifica-
 13 tions for older individuals and individuals with disabilities
 14 to support enabling such individuals to live independently
 15 and safely in a home environment.

16 “(b) COORDINATION OF FEDERAL EFFORTS.—In
 17 carrying out the initiative under this section, the Assistant
 18 Secretary shall, through memoranda of understanding,
 19 agreements, or other appropriate means of coordination,
 20 coordinate all Federal efforts and Federal programs exist-
 21 ing prior to the date of enactment of the Senior and Dis-
 22 ability Home Modification Assistance Initiative Act that
 23 support home assessments and home modifications for
 24 older individuals and individuals with disabilities.

25 “(c) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date
 26 of enactment of the Senior and Disability Home Modifica-

tion Assistance Initiative Act, and annually thereafter, the Assistant Secretary shall publish a report that includes—

“(1) an inventory of Federal programs that support home assessments and home modifications for older individuals and individuals with disabilities;

“(2) for the fiscal year of the report, statistical data on the number of older individuals and individuals with disabilities served by each Federal program described in paragraph (1) and the approximate amount of Federal funding invested in each such program;

“(3) a demographic analysis of individuals served by each such program during the fiscal year of the report;

“(4) an analysis of duplication and gaps in populations supported by the Federal programs described in paragraph (1); and

“(5) an evaluation of the impact of Federal home modification efforts and programs on health status and health outcomes in populations supported by such efforts and programs.

“(d) LOCAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Secretary shall, through the National Eldercare Locator Service established under section 202(a)(21) and in co-

1 operation with centers for independent living de-
2 scribed in part C of title VII of the Rehabilitation
3 Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 796f et seq.), identify and
4 publish an educational brochure on home modifica-
5 tions and repairs for use by older individuals at-
6 tempting to live independently and safely in their
7 homes and the caregivers of such individuals.

8 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The brochure published
9 under paragraph (1) shall—

10 “(A) be written in consumer-friendly lan-
11 guage;

12 “(B) include information on the value of
13 home modifications to ensure a safe living envi-
14 ronment as individuals age;

15 “(C) include simple advice on common
16 types of home modification that boost safety
17 and livability; and

18 “(D) include references to Federal re-
19 sources available to help offset the cost of home
20 repairs or modifications and where those re-
21 sources can typically be accessed locally.

22 “(3) DISTRIBUTION.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The brochure pub-
24 lished under paragraph (1) shall be distributed
25 widely throughout the aging network, using the

1 National Eldercare Locator Service, with State
 2 agencies, area agencies on aging, and commu-
 3 nity-based service providers disseminating the
 4 brochure to older individuals and caregivers.

5 “(B) CUSTOMIZATION.—The Assistant
 6 Secretary shall encourage State agencies, area
 7 agencies on aging, and community-based service
 8 providers to customize the brochure to include
 9 available non-Federal resources.

10 “(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
 11 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
 12 as may be necessary for the production and dissemi-
 13 nation of the brochure published under paragraph
 14 (1).

15 “(e) DEFINITION OF INDIVIDUAL WITH A DIS-
 16 ABILITY.—In this title, the term ‘individual with a dis-
 17 ability’ has the meaning given such term in section 3 of
 18 the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
 19 12102).”.

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