

Union Calendar No. 40

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2922

[Report No. 117-57]

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.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 30, 2021

Ms. GARCIA of Texas (for herself and Mrs. SPARTZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JUNE 11, 2021

Additional sponsors: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. MCKINLEY, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma, and Ms. JACKSON LEE

JUNE 11, 2021

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on April 30, 2021]

A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “Elder Abuse Protection*
 5 *Act of 2021”.*

6 **SEC. 2. ELDER JUSTICE INITIATIVE.**

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

10 *“(b) ELDER JUSTICE INITIATIVE.—*

11 *“(1) PERMANENT INITIATIVE.—The Attorney*
 12 *General shall establish an Elder Justice Initiative to*
 13 *coordinate criminal enforcement and public engage-*
 14 *ment efforts to combat elder abuse, neglect, and finan-*
 15 *cial fraud and scams that target elders, and to sup-*
 16 *port and coordinate the efforts of the Elder Justice*
 17 *Coordinator designated under subsection (a).*

18 *“(2) DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ELDER JUSTICE*
 19 *COORDINATOR.—The Attorney General shall designate*
 20 *an Elder Justice Coordinator within the Department*
 21 *of Justice who, in addition to any other responsibil-*
 22 *ities, shall be responsible for—*

23 *“(A) coordinating and supporting the law*
 24 *enforcement efforts and policy activities as the*

1 *head of the Elder Justice Initiative for the De-*
2 *partment of Justice on elder justice issues;*

3 *“(B) evaluating training models to deter-*
4 *mine best practices and creating or compiling*
5 *and making publicly available replication guides*
6 *and training materials for law enforcement offi-*
7 *cers, prosecutors, judges, emergency responders,*
8 *individuals working in victim services, adult*
9 *protective services, social services, and public*
10 *safety, medical personnel, mental health per-*
11 *sonnel, financial services personnel, and any*
12 *other individuals whose work may bring them in*
13 *contact with elder abuse regarding how to—*

14 *“(i) conduct investigations in elder*
15 *abuse cases;*

16 *“(ii) address evidentiary issues and*
17 *other legal issues; and*

18 *“(iii) appropriately assess, respond to,*
19 *and interact with victims and witnesses in*
20 *elder abuse cases, including in administra-*
21 *tive, civil, and criminal judicial pro-*
22 *ceedings; and*

23 *“(C) carrying out such other duties as the*
24 *Attorney General determines necessary in con-*
25 *nection with enhancing the understanding, pre-*

1 vention, and detection of, and response to, elder
2 abuse.

3 “(3) *ONLINE PUBLIC RESOURCES.*—*The Elder*
4 *Justice Initiative shall maintain and publish on the*
5 *internet, information aimed at protecting elders from*
6 *fraudulent schemes and contain resources aimed at*
7 *preventing elder abuse.*

8 “(4) *TELEPHONE HOTLINE.*—*The Attorney Gen-*
9 *eral, in consultation with the Elder Justice Coordi-*
10 *nator and the Office of Victims of Crime, shall estab-*
11 *lish a national elder fraud telephone hotline to pro-*
12 *vide support to victims and resources to help victims,*
13 *including referrals to federal, local and state law en-*
14 *forcement where appropriate.*

15 “(5) *TRIBAL CONSULTATION.*—*The Elder Justice*
16 *Coordinator shall provide recommendations to the Of-*
17 *fice of Tribal Justice on a yearly basis on how to ad-*
18 *dress elder abuse and elder fraud that takes place on*
19 *federally recognized tribal reservations.*

20 “(6) *LEGAL AID.*—*The Elder Justice Coordinator*
21 *shall consult with components of the Department of*
22 *Justice to promote the provision of civil legal aid to*
23 *victims of elder abuse and elder fraud.*

24 “(7) *SPANISH LANGUAGE RESOURCES.*—*The At-*
25 *torney General shall ensure that Elder Justice Initia-*

1 *tive online resources are available in Spanish and*
2 *link linguistically appropriate resources to inform*
3 *Spanish-speaking elders of Federal and State re-*
4 *sources to combat fraud and abuse that targets the el-*
5 *derly, to include—*

6 *“(A) Spanish-language resources and links*
7 *that help report instances of elder fraud and*
8 *abuse to State and local law enforcement; and*

9 *“(B) resources that help prevent financial*
10 *exploitation of elders.”.*

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