



Section-by-Section

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION & LABOR

EDLABOR.HOUSE.GOV

The Hon. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott • Chairman

Dignity in Aging Act H.R. 4334

Section 1. Short Title

This section states that the title of the bill is the *Dignity in Aging Act of 2019*.

TITLE I. ENSURING COLLABORATION AND PROMOTING INDEPENDENCE FOR OLDER INDIVIDUALS

Section 101. Person-Centered Trauma-Informed Care

This section adds access to person-centered, trauma-informed care to the objectives of the Act.

Section 102. Vaccination

This section adds immunization status screening to the list of routine health screenings allowed under the definition of disease prevention and health promotion.

Section 103. Functions of the Assistant Secretary

This section clarifies that the Assistant Secretary for Aging at the Department of Health and Human Services (hereafter "Assistant Secretary") shall not approve grant applications for programs that have received previous grants unless programs meet certain standards. The bill further requires the Assistant Secretary to publish a list of resource centers as well as demonstration projects funded through the Act on an annual basis.

Section 104. Professional Standards for Nutrition Official under the Assistant Secretary

This section ensures that the nutrition official under the Assistant Secretary is a Registered Dietitian/Registered Dietitian Nutritionist.

Section 105. Interagency Coordinating Committee on Age-Friendly Communities

This section re-names the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Aging as the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Age-Friendly Communities and tasks the Committee with coordinating efforts to promote safe and accessible independent living environments.

Section 106. Technical Assistance on Age-Friendly Communities

This section allows the Assistant Secretary to provide technical assistance to state agencies, area agencies on aging (AAAs), local governments, and leaders in age-friendly communities to implement best practices and the recommendations of the Interagency Coordinating Committee.

Section 107. Malnutrition

This section clarifies that screening for malnutrition is included as part of nutrition screening within broader routine health screening in the definition of disease prevention and health promotion services. Additionally, this section adds reducing malnutrition to the purpose of the Act's nutrition services programs.

Section 108. Coordination with Resource Centers

This section requires states and AAAs to collect data on the services needed by the populations whose needs are the focus of the centers funded by Title IV of the Act; this section also requires states and AAAs to conduct outreach to identify individuals eligible for assistance under the OAA, with an emphasis on these populations.

Section 109. Arts Education

This section clarifies that arts education is an authorized activity as part of the functions of the Assistant Secretary and that cultural experiences – including the arts – are included in the definition of supportive services.

Section 110. Social Determinants of Health

This section adds social determinants of health to the purpose of Title III.

Section 111. Federal Coordination of Supports and Services for Living Independently and Safely at Home

This section creates an initiative under the Assistant Secretary to coordinate federal resources to promote the independence and safety of adults living at home as they age, including falls prevention, home assessments, and home modifications.

Section 112. Falls Prevention and Chronic Disease Self-Management Education

This section provides an authorization for the currently funded Falls Prevention and Chronic Disease Self-Management programs.

Section 113. Extension of the RAISE Family Caregivers Act

This section extends by one year (to 2022) the authorization of the *RAISE Family Caregivers Act*, which requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a National Family Caregiving Strategy and convene a Family Caregiving Advisory Council.

Section 114. Support for Socially-Isolated Older Americans

This section adds social isolation screening to the definition of disease prevention and health promotion services.

Section 115. Increased Focus of the Assistant Secretary on Social Isolation

This section adds a requirement for the Assistant Secretary to develop objectives and a long-term plan to improve the prevention of, detection of, and response to social isolation.

Section 116. Advisory Council on Social Isolation

This section requires the Assistant Secretary to convene an advisory council on social isolation and loneliness tasked with identifying best practices to address these challenges.

Section 117. Supportive Services and Senior Centers

This section adds social isolation to the definition of health screening for the purposes of grant-making authority to senior centers and supportive services in Title III of the Act.

Section 118. Demonstration Projects

This section adds projects that address social isolation and loneliness among older adults to the list of authorized grant programs under Title IV of the Act. Additionally, this section repeals section 416 of the statute. (Section 416 is a technical assistance program that has never received funding.)

Section 119. Younger Onset Alzheimer's Disease

This section clarifies that family caregivers include adult caregivers for individuals of any age with Alzheimer's disease for the purposes of the Act. Additionally, this section clarifies that individuals of any age with Alzheimer's disease can be served by the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program.

Section 120. Priority for the Senior Community Service Employment Program

This section adds individuals who are justice-involved as a priority population for the Senior Community Service Employment Program.

Section 121. Direct Care Workforce

This section adds projects that expand and improve the direct care workforce to the list of authorized grant programs and demonstration projects under Title IV and Title V of the Act.

TITLE II. EMPOWERING THE AGING NETWORK TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OLDER INDIVIDUALS

Section 201. National Family Caregiver Support Program Cap

This section eliminates the cap on Title III-E National Family Caregiver Support Program resources that can be allocated toward older relative caregivers, which is currently set at 10% of total federal and non-federal funding. This section further requires the Assistant Secretary to submit a report to Congress on the impact of lifting this cap.

Section 202. Minimum Funding Level for State Administrative Expenses

This section increases the minimum funding level for state administrative expenses from \$500,000 to \$750,000.

Section 203. Culturally-Appropriate, Medically-Tailored Meals

This section acknowledges flexibility for meal planning to address cultural considerations and preferences and medically-tailored meals in Title III-C nutrition programs.

Section 204. Business Acumen Provisions and Clarification Regarding Outside Funding for Area Agencies on Aging

This section provides support for capacity building for AAAs. It also clarifies that AAAs can engage in the provision of privately paid services or services covered by other health care and Long-Term Supports and Services payers outside of their OAA funding.

Section 205. Other Practices

This section requires state agencies to provide state policies regarding to AAAs upon request.

Section 206. Caregiver Assessments

This section defines and allows for the use of caregiver assessments in the provision of caregiver support services. Additionally, this section requires the Assistant Secretary to issue technical assistance and a report on the use of caregiver assessments.

Section 207. Research and Evaluation

This section establishes a National Research, Demonstration, and Evaluation Center for the Aging Network in the Office of the Assistant Secretary. The Center shall be responsible for conducting, promoting, and coordinating research, research dissemination, evaluation, demonstration projects, and related technical assistance throughout the Act. This section authorizes \$20,000,000 in discretionary spending annually for the administration of the Center.

Section 208. Grant Program for Multigenerational Collaboration

This section authorizes the Assistant Secretary to award grants to provide opportunities for older individuals to participate in multigeneration activities and civic engagement activities.

TITLE III. STRENGTHENING PROTECTIONS FOR OLDER ADULTS

Section 301. State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program Minimum Funding and Maintenance of Effort

This section updates minimum funding and maintenance of effort provisions for the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program to the most current fiscal year.

Section 302. State Long-Term Care Volunteer Ombudsman Representatives

This section recognizes the use of volunteer representatives in the ombudsman program by clarifying that OAA funds can be used for volunteer transportation and other volunteer expenses.

Section 303. Clarification Regarding Board and Care Facilities

This section clarifies that board and care facilities are included within the definition of assisted living facility under the Act.

TITLE IV. MEETING THE NEEDS OF OLDER NATIVE AMERICANS

Section 401. Expanding Supportive Services for Native American Aging Programs

This section creates a demonstration program (new Part D) to provide grants to tribal organizations to provide in-home and supportive services. Part D receives a 5% set-aside from Part C and additional funding.

Section 402. Enhancing Capacity to Support Native American Aging Programs

This section provides an additional \$500,000 for FY20 for technical assistance for tribal organizations implementing OAA programs.

TITLE V. MISCELLANEOUS

Section 501. Assistive Technology

The section updates the Act's reference to the Assistive Technology Act of 2004.

Section 502. Technical Corrections

This section makes technical and conforming amendments.

Section 503. Authorization of Appropriations; Uses of Funds

This section authorizes appropriations for the programs under the Act.

Section 504. Effective Date

This section states that the *Dignity in Aging Act of 2019* shall take effect on October 1, 2019.