

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5023

To amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to improve falls prevention research and activities, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 11, 2024

Mr. KING (for himself and Mr. ROUNDS) 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 improve falls prevention research and activities, 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 “Stand Strong Falls
5 Prevention Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON FALLS PREVENTION OF**
2 **THE ADMINISTRATION ON AGING.**

3 Title II of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42
4 U.S.C. 3011 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section
5 203A the following:

6 **“SEC. 203B. FALLS PREVENTION ACTIVITIES.**

7 “(a) **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON FALLS PREVEN-**
8 **TION.—**

9 “(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.—**There is established an
10 Advisory Committee on Falls Prevention (referred to
11 in this section as the ‘Advisory Committee’) to ad-
12 vise the Assistant Secretary on developing and main-
13 taining the national plan described in paragraph
14 (2)(A) and carrying out the assessments described in
15 paragraph (2)(C). The Advisory Committee shall be
16 headed by a Chair (referred to in this section as the
17 ‘Chair’).

18 “(2) **DUTIES OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—**
19 The Advisory Committee shall—

20 “(A) be responsible for, and oversee, the
21 creation and maintenance of an integrated na-
22 tional plan to address falls prevention, including
23 through accelerating the development of falls
24 prevention programs, modalities, or interven-
25 tions that aim to prevent falls and reduce the

1 prevalence and severity of injuries resulting
2 from falls;

3 “(B) advise and assist the Assistant Sec-
4 retary in providing information and coordina-
5 tion of falls prevention research and services
6 across all Federal agencies;

7 “(C) carry out the assessment under sub-
8 section (b)(2)(B), including—

9 “(i) an assessment of—

10 “(I) all Federal efforts and pro-
11 grams related to falls prevention, in-
12 cluding budget requests and approv-
13 als; and

14 “(II) the progress of the United
15 States in addressing falls prevention;
16 and

17 “(D) make recommendations, including im-
18 plementation steps for priority actions, based
19 on such assessment.

20 “(3) MEMBERSHIP.—The Advisory Committee
21 shall be comprised of the following:

22 “(A) FEDERAL MEMBERS.—Members of
23 the Advisory Committee shall include the fol-
24 lowing:

1 “(i) One representative from each of
2 the following agencies, appointed by the
3 head of each such agency:

4 “(I) The Centers for Disease
5 Control and Prevention.

6 “(II) The Centers for Medicare &
7 Medicaid Services.

8 “(III) The Indian Health Service.

9 “(IV) The National Institutes of
10 Health.

11 “(V) The Office of the Assistant
12 Secretary for Health.

13 “(VI) The National Science
14 Foundation.

15 “(VII) The Department of Vet-
16 erans Affairs.

17 “(VIII) The Food and Drug Ad-
18 ministration.

19 “(IX) The Agency for Healthcare
20 Research and Quality.

21 “(X) The Department of Labor.

22 “(XI) The Department of Hous-
23 ing and Urban Development.

24 “(XII) The Office of the Assist-
25 ant Secretary for Planning and Eval-

1 uation of the Department of Health
2 and Human Services.

3 “(XIII) The Office of Rural De-
4 velopment of the Department of Agri-
5 culture.

6 “(XIV) The Rehabilitation Serv-
7 ices Administration of the Depart-
8 ment of Education.

9 “(XV) The Weatherization As-
10 sistance Program of the Department
11 of Energy.

12 “(ii) One designee to be assigned by
13 the Assistant Secretary from other officials
14 described in section 203(c)(2).

15 “(B) NON-FEDERAL MEMBERS.—Members
16 of the Advisory Committee shall include 12 ex-
17 pert members from outside the Federal Govern-
18 ment to be appointed by the Assistant Sec-
19 retary, including the following:

20 “(i) Two consumer advocates with
21 demonstrated experience related to falls
22 prevention.

23 “(ii) Two health care providers with
24 falls prevention expertise.

1 “(iii) Two representatives of State
2 health departments that have implemented
3 programs specifically related to falls pre-
4 vention.

5 “(iv) Two researchers in falls preven-
6 tion-related research.

7 “(v) Two caregivers that have experi-
8 ence with—

9 “(I) patients who fell; or

10 “(II) falls prevention.

11 “(vi) Two voluntary health association
12 representatives that have demonstrated ex-
13 perience in patient care and research, in-
14 cluding patient services, referral, support
15 groups, care consultation, education, and
16 safety services.

17 “(vii) Two aging service providers
18 with falls prevention expertise.

19 “(viii) Two housing assistance experts
20 that have demonstrated experience with—

21 “(I) research;

22 “(II) tenant or homeowner assist-
23 ance; or

24 “(III) working with housing non-
25 profit associations.

1 “(ix) Two disability service providers
2 that have experience with assistive tech-
3 nology.

4 “(x) Two State falls prevention coali-
5 tion leaders.

6 “(C) CHAIR.—The Assistant Secretary
7 shall appoint one member of the Advisory Com-
8 mittee to serve as Chair.

9 “(D) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACAN-
10 CIES.—

11 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A member of the
12 Advisory Committee appointed under sub-
13 paragraph (A) or (B) shall be appointed
14 for a term of 5 years.

15 “(ii) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the
16 Advisory Committee—

17 “(I) shall not affect the powers of
18 the Advisory Committee; and

19 “(II) shall be filled in the same
20 manner as the original appointment.

21 “(4) MEETINGS.—The Advisory Committee
22 shall meet every 4 months, beginning 2 months after
23 all initial members of the Advisory Committee have
24 been appointed.

25 “(5) INITIAL REPORT.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year
2 after the date on which all initial members of
3 the Advisory Committee have been appointed,
4 the Advisory Committee shall provide to the As-
5 sistant Secretary and Congress—

6 “(i) an initial evaluation of all feder-
7 ally funded efforts in programs related to
8 falls prevention, including educational pro-
9 grams, home- and community-based pro-
10 grams, emergency medical services, and
11 hospital or health system programs, and
12 their outcomes;

13 “(ii) initial recommendations for pri-
14 ority actions to expand, eliminate, coordi-
15 nate, or condense each such program based
16 on the performance, mission, and purpose
17 of each such program;

18 “(iii) except as provided in subpara-
19 graph (C), a recommendation for devel-
20 oping—

21 “(I) under title XVIII of the So-
22 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et
23 seq.), a pilot or demonstration pro-
24 gram to provide—

1 “(aa) coverage under such
2 title for not less than 20,000
3 Medicare beneficiaries of basic
4 home modifications to reduce
5 falls; and

6 “(bb) evidence-based falls
7 prevention programs; and

8 “(II) under section 1115A of the
9 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
10 1315a)—

11 “(aa) a broad payment dem-
12 onstration model to test coverage
13 of basic home modifications to
14 reduce falls; and

15 “(bb) evidence-based falls
16 prevention programs;

17 “(iv) recommendations on how to in-
18 crease use by providers, for patients with
19 public or private health insurance plans, of
20 the falls risk screening, assessment, inter-
21 vention, and follow-up tool developed
22 through the Stopping Elderly Accidents,
23 Deaths, and Injuries (STEADI) initiative
24 of the Centers for Disease Control and
25 Prevention; and

1 “(v)(I) a report on the status and suc-
2 cess of public education and activation
3 campaigns related to falls prevention; and

4 “(II) recommendations for improve-
5 ments for future federally funded public
6 education and activation campaigns related
7 to falls prevention.

8 “(B) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MEDICARE
9 PILOT OR DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS.—The
10 recommendation described in subparagraph
11 (A)(iii) may include—

12 “(i) a recommendation on how the
13 Administrator of the Centers for Medicare
14 & Medicaid Services could design, develop,
15 and test a payment model under title
16 XVIII of the Social Security Act that com-
17 bines coverage of basic home modifications
18 with services that are furnished by a quali-
19 fying provider determined by such Admin-
20 istrator and are furnished under a health
21 care provider’s supervision; and

22 “(ii) a recommendation on coverage
23 under title XVIII of falls prevention serv-
24 ices that are evidence-based (within the
25 meaning of such term under section

1 361(a)) to improve patient care, mitigate
2 mobility and functional deterioration in
3 functional activities, and lower program ex-
4 penditures under such title.

5 “(C) EXCEPTION.—The recommendation
6 required under subparagraph (A)(iii) shall not
7 be required if an Act of Congress, enacted as
8 of the date of enactment of this section, re-
9 quires the Administrator of the Centers for
10 Medicare & Medicaid Services to develop a pro-
11 gram or payment model described in such sub-
12 paragraph.

13 “(6) POWERS OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

14 “(A) HEARINGS.—The Advisory Com-
15 mittee may hold such hearings, sit and act at
16 such times and places, take such testimony, and
17 receive such evidence as the Advisory Com-
18 mittee considers advisable to carry out this sub-
19 section.

20 “(B) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGEN-
21 CIES.—

22 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory
23 Committee may secure directly from a
24 Federal department or agency such infor-
25 mation as the Advisory Committee con-

1 siders necessary to carry out this sub-
2 section.

3 “(ii) FURNISHING INFORMATION.—On
4 request of the Chair of the Advisory Com-
5 mittee, the head of the department or
6 agency shall furnish the information to the
7 Advisory Committee.

8 “(C) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Advisory
9 Committee may use the United States mails in
10 the same manner and under the same condi-
11 tions as other departments and agencies of the
12 Federal Government.

13 “(D) GIFTS.—The Advisory Committee
14 may accept, use, and dispose of gifts or dona-
15 tions of services or property.

16 “(7) ADVISORY COMMITTEE PERSONNEL MAT-
17 TERS.—

18 “(A) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—A
19 member of the Advisory Committee who is not
20 an officer or employee of the Federal Govern-
21 ment shall be compensated at a rate equal to
22 the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic
23 pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive
24 Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United
25 States Code, for each day (including travel

1 time) during which the member is engaged in
2 the performance of the duties of the Advisory
3 Committee.

4 “(B) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of
5 the Advisory Committee shall be allowed travel
6 expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsist-
7 ence, at rates authorized for employees of agen-
8 cies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5,
9 United States Code, while away from their
10 homes or regular places of business in the per-
11 formance of services for the Advisory Com-
12 mittee.

13 “(8) STAFF.—

14 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Chair of the Ad-
15 visory Committee may, without regard to the
16 civil service laws (including regulations), ap-
17 point and terminate an executive director and
18 such other additional personnel as may be nec-
19 essary to enable the Advisory Committee to per-
20 form its duties, except that the employment of
21 an executive director shall be subject to con-
22 firmation by the Advisory Committee.

23 “(B) COMPENSATION.—The Chair of the
24 Advisory Committee may fix the compensation
25 of the executive director and other personnel

1 without regard to chapter 51 and subchapter
2 III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code,
3 relating to classification of positions and Gen-
4 eral Schedule pay rates, except that the rate of
5 pay for the executive director and other per-
6 sonnel may not exceed the rate payable for level
7 V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316
8 of that title.

9 “(9) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—A
10 Federal Government employee may be detailed to
11 the Advisory Committee without reimbursement, and
12 such detail shall be without interruption or loss of
13 civil service status or privilege.

14 “(10) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND
15 INTERMITTENT SERVICES.—The Chair of the Advi-
16 sory Committee may procure temporary and inter-
17 mittent services under section 3109(b) of title 5,
18 United States Code, at rates for individuals that do
19 not exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of
20 basic pay prescribed for level V of the Executive
21 Schedule under section 5316 of that title.

22 “(11) COORDINATION OF PUBLIC EDUCATION
23 CAMPAIGNS.—The Director shall share recommenda-
24 tions developed by the Advisory Committee with en-
25 tities that receive Federal funding for public edu-

1 cation campaigns relating to falls prevention, includ-
2 ing under section 393D(a) of the Public Health
3 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280b–1f(a)).

4 “(12) TERMINATION.—The Advisory Committee
5 shall terminate on the date that is 10 years after the
6 date on which all initial members are appointed.

7 “(b) REPORTS RELATING TO FALLS PREVENTION.—

8 “(1) DATA SHARING.—Agencies within the De-
9 partment of Health and Human Services, and other
10 Federal agencies, that have data relating to falls
11 prevention shall share such data with the Assistant
12 Secretary, to enable the Assistant Secretary to com-
13 plete the reports under paragraph (2).

14 “(2) REGULAR REPORTS.—The Assistant Sec-
15 retary shall submit to Congress a report, not later
16 than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Stand
17 Strong Falls Prevention Act and every 4 years
18 thereafter, that includes—

19 “(A) an evaluation of all federally funded
20 programs and efforts in falls prevention (includ-
21 ing education programs, home and community-
22 based programs, and hospital programs and any
23 such programs or efforts included in budget re-
24 quests and approvals), including an evaluation
25 with respect to the outcomes (including pro-

1 gram performance), mission, and purpose of
2 such programs related to falls prevention;

3 “(B) an assessment of the progress of the
4 United States in addressing falls prevention, as
5 reported by the Advisory Committee under sub-
6 section (a)(2)(B);

7 “(C) an evaluation of the implementation
8 of any pilot or demonstration program or model
9 recommended under subsection (a)(5)(B) or
10 any other pilot or demonstration program de-
11 scribed in such subsection that has otherwise
12 been initiated by the Administrator of the Cen-
13 ters for Medicare & Medicaid Services;

14 “(D) a description of the outcomes of the
15 recommendations of the Advisory Committee
16 under subsection (a)(5), including priorities, if
17 necessary, through an updated national plan
18 under subsection (a)(2)(A);

19 “(E) recommendations, based on the eval-
20 uations, assessment, and outcomes described in
21 subparagraphs (A) through (D), for—

22 “(i) priority actions to—

23 “(I) reduce the financial impact
24 of falls on expenditures under the
25 Medicare program under title XVIII

1 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
2 1395 et seq.), the Medicaid program
3 under title XIX of such Act (42
4 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.), and other feder-
5 ally funded programs through falls
6 prevention initiatives; and

7 “(II) improve health outcomes
8 through such initiatives;

9 “(ii) priority actions to improve
10 screening, referral, and interventions to ad-
11 dress falls prevention;

12 “(iii) expanding pilot or demonstra-
13 tion programs or models described in sub-
14 section (a)(5)(B) towards implementation
15 on a nationwide basis in accordance with
16 section 1115A(c) of the Social Security Act
17 (42 U.S.C. 1315a(c)) by 2030; and

18 “(iv) steps to implement each rec-
19 ommendation described in this paragraph;
20 and

21 “(F)(i) a report on the status and success
22 of public education campaigns related to falls
23 prevention; and

1 “(ii) recommendations for improvements
2 for future federally funded public education
3 campaigns related to falls prevention.

4 “(c) FUNDING.—

5 “(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
6 To carry out this section, there are authorized to be
7 appropriated such sums as may be necessary for
8 each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

9 “(2) EXISTING AMOUNTS.—In addition to any
10 amounts appropriated pursuant to paragraph (1),
11 the Assistant Secretary may carry out this section
12 using amounts otherwise made available to the As-
13 sistant Secretary.

14 “(d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘falls
15 prevention’ means prevention of injury from falls that fo-
16 cuses on reducing fall risk factors, preventing repeat falls,
17 and preventing falls with injuries.”.

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