

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2922

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

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”.

1 **SEC. 2. ELDER JUSTICE INITIATIVE.**

2 Section 101(b) of the Elder Abuse Prevention and
3 Prosecution Act (34 U.S.C. 21711(b)) is amended to read
4 as follows:

5 “(b) ELDER JUSTICE INITIATIVE.—

6 “(1) PERMANENT INITIATIVE.—The Attorney
7 General shall establish within the Criminal Division
8 an Elder Justice Initiative to coordinate criminal en-
9 forcement and public engagement efforts to combat
10 elder abuse, neglect, and financial fraud and scams
11 that target elders, and to support and coordinate the
12 efforts of the Elder Justice Coordinators designated
13 under subsection (a).

14 “(2) DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ELDER JUSTICE
15 COORDINATOR.—The Attorney General shall des-
16 ignate an Elder Justice Coordinator within the De-
17 partment of Justice who, in addition to any other re-
18 sponsibilities, shall be responsible for—

19 “(A) coordinating and supporting the law
20 enforcement efforts and policy activities as the
21 head of the Elder Justice Initiative for the De-
22 partment of Justice on elder justice issues;

23 “(B) evaluating training models to deter-
24 mine best practices and creating or compiling
25 and making publicly available replication guides
26 and training materials for law enforcement offi-

1 cers, prosecutors, judges, emergency respond-
2 ers, individuals working in victim services, adult
3 protective services, social services, and public
4 safety, medical personnel, mental health per-
5 sonnel, financial services personnel, and any
6 other individuals whose work may bring them in
7 contact with elder abuse regarding how to—

8 “(i) conduct investigations in elder
9 abuse cases;

10 “(ii) address evidentiary issues and
11 other legal issues; and

12 “(iii) appropriately assess, respond to,
13 and interact with victims and witnesses in
14 elder abuse cases, including in administra-
15 tive, civil, and criminal judicial pro-
16 ceedings; and

17 “(C) carrying out such other duties as the
18 Attorney General determines necessary in con-
19 nection with enhancing the understanding, pre-
20 vention, and detection of, and response to, elder
21 abuse.

22 “(3) ONLINE PUBLIC RESOURCES.—The Elder
23 Justice Initiative shall maintain and publish on the
24 internet, information aimed at protecting elders

1 from fraudulent schemes and contain resources
2 aimed at preventing elder abuse.

3 “(4) SPANISH LANGUAGE RESOURCES.—The
4 Attorney General shall ensure that Elder Justice
5 Initiative online resources are available in Spanish
6 and link linguistically appropriate resources to in-
7 form Spanish-speaking elders of Federal and State
8 resources to combat fraud and abuse that targets
9 the elderly, to include—

10 “(A) Spanish-language resources and links
11 that help report instances of elder fraud and
12 abuse to State and local law enforcement; and

13 “(B) resources that help prevent financial
14 exploitation of elders.”.

○