



WASHINGTON UPDATE

MARCH 2016

Older Americans Act Timeline

3/21/2016—

Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended agreed to by voice vote.

7/16/2016—

Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate without amendment by Voice Vote.

2/3/2015—

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. Reported by Senator Alexander without amendment. Without written report.

1/20/2015—

Introduced in Senate

Contact Us

We welcome your feedback!
Please share questions,
suggestions or concerns.

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Older Americans Act Reauthorization Passed by House of Representatives

The House of Representatives voted on March 21 to pass the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2016 (S.192). The bill was voted on under suspension of the rules, meaning that debate was limited and the bill passed quickly on the House floor. The bill, introduced by Reps. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR) and Carlos Curbelo (R-FL), was produced in a bipartisan fashion. This bill is a three-year reauthorization and it provides for long-overdue higher authorization levels for the Older Americans Act of more than six percent over the life of the bill.

Since the bill was amended in the House, the new version will now return to the Senate.

Some provisions of the House bill:

- Strengthen the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) and update coordination between SCSEP and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.
- Retain the key elements of the nutrition programs, including separate authorizations for congregate and home-delivered meals and continuation of the policy of voluntary contributions from participants.
- Use grant funding to deliver oral health screenings to older adults.
- Call for improved and more person-centered transportation services.
- Emphasize elder abuse prevention, including improved training for states, area agencies on aging, and service providers on elder abuse prevention and screening.
- Require the Assistant Secretary for Aging to identify model programs and to provide information and technical assistance to states, area agencies on aging, and service providers to support the modernization of multipurpose senior centers.
- Clarify the National Family Caregiver Support Program's eligibility language to include older adults who are caring for adult children with disabilities and raising children under 18.
- Continue to emphasize evidence-based support.

A summary of the bill, full text of the bill and differences between the House and Senate bills can be found at benrose.org/KPI.