

85TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 9822

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 8, 1958

Mr. FOGARTY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

### A BILL

To provide for holding a White House Conference on Aging to be called by the President of the United States before December 31, 1958, to be planned and conducted by the Special Staff on Aging of the United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare with the assistance and cooperation of other agencies of that Department and of other department and agencies represented on the Federal Council on Aging; to assist the several States in conducting similar conferences on aging prior to the White House Conference on Aging; and for related purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*  
3 *That this Act may be cited as the "White House Confer-*  
4 *ence on Aging Act".*

1 TITLE I—NEED FOR LEGISLATION; DECLARA-  
2 TION OF POLICY; DEFINITIONS

3 NEED FOR LEGISLATION

4 SEC. 101. The Congress hereby finds and declares that  
5 the public interest requires the enactment of legislation to  
6 formulate recommendations for immediate action in im-  
7 proving and developing programs to permit the country to  
8 take advantage of the experience and skills of the older  
9 persons in our population, to create conditions which will  
10 better enable them to meet their needs, and to further re-  
11 search on aging because—

12 (1) the number of persons forty-five years of age  
13 and older in our population has increased from approxi-  
14 mately thirteen and one-half million in 1900 to forty-  
15 nine and one-half million in 1957, and the number sixty-  
16 five years of age and over from approximately three  
17 million in 1900 to almost fifteen million at the present  
18 time, and is expected to reach twenty-one million by  
19 1975; and

20 (2) outmoded practices in the employment and  
21 compulsory premature retirement of middle-aged and  
22 older persons are depriving the economy of their much  
23 needed experience, skill, and energy and simultaneously,

1 depriving many middle-aged and older persons of oppor-  
2 tunity for gainful employment and an adequate standard  
3 of living; and

4 (3) many older persons do not have adequate finan-  
5 cial resources to maintain themselves and their families  
6 as independent and self-respecting members of their  
7 communities, to obtain the medical and rehabilitation  
8 services required to permit them to function as healthy,  
9 useful members of society, and to permit them to enjoy  
10 the normal, human, social contacts; and

11 (4) our failure to provide adequate housing for  
12 elderly persons at costs which can be met by them is  
13 perpetuating slum conditions in many of our cities and  
14 smaller communities and is forcing many older persons  
15 to live under conditions in which they cannot maintain  
16 decency and health, or continue to participate in the  
17 organized life of the community; and

18 (5) the lack of suitable facilities and opportunities  
19 in which middle-aged persons can learn how to prepare  
20 for the later years of life, learn new vocational skills,  
21 and develop and pursue avocational and recreational  
22 interests is driving many of our older persons into  
23 retirement shock, premature physical and mental deterio-

1 ration, and loneliness and isolation and is filling up our  
2 mental institutions and general hospitals and causing  
3 an unnecessary drain on our health manpower; and  
4 (6) in order to prevent the additional years of  
5 life, given to us by our scientific development and  
6 abundant economy, from becoming a prolonged period  
7 of dying, we must step up research on the physical,  
8 psychological, and sociological factors in aging and in  
9 diseases common among middle-aged and older persons;  
10 and  
11 (7) we may expect average length of life and the  
12 number of older people to increase still further, we must  
13 proceed with all possible speed to correct these condi-  
14 tions and to create a social, economic, and health climate  
15 which will permit our middle-aged and older people to  
16 continue to lead proud and independent lives which will  
17 restore and rehabilitate many of them to useful and  
18 dignified positions among their neighbors; which will  
19 enhance the vigor and vitality of the communities and  
20 of our total economy; and which will prevent further  
21 aggravation of their problems with resulting increased  
22 social, financial, and medical burdens.

#### 23 **DECLARATION OF POLICY**

24 **SEC. 102. (a)** While the primary responsibility for  
25 meeting the challenge and problems of aging is that of the

1 States and communities, all levels of government are in-  
2 volved and must necessarily share responsibility; and it is  
3 therefore the policy of the Congress that the Federal Gov-  
4 ernment shall work jointly with the States and their citizens,  
5 to develop recommendations and plans for action, consistent  
6 with subsection (b) of this section, which will serve the  
7 purposes of—

8 (1) assuring middle-aged and older persons equal  
9 opportunity with others to engage in gainful employ-  
10 ment which they are capable of performing, thereby  
11 gaining for our economy the benefits of their skills,  
12 experience, and productive capacities; and

13 (2) enabling retired persons to enjoy incomes suffi-  
14 cient for health and for participation in family and com-  
15 munity life as self-respecting citizens; and

16 (3) providing housing suited to the needs of older  
17 persons and at prices they can afford to pay; and

18 (4) assisting middle-aged and older persons to  
19 make the preparation, develop skills and interests, and  
20 find social contacts which will make the gift of added  
21 years of life a period of reward and satisfaction and avoid  
22 unnecessary social costs of premature deterioration and  
23 disability; and

24 (5) stepping up research designed to relieve old age

1 of its burdens of sickness, mental breakdown, and social  
2 ostracism.

3 (b) It is further declared to be the policy of Congress  
4 that in all programs developed there should be emphasis  
5 upon the right and obligation of older persons to free choice  
6 and self-help in planning their own futures.

#### 7 DEFINITIONS

8 SEC. 103. For the purposes of this Act—

9 (1) The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of  
10 Health, Education, and Welfare;

11 (2) The term "Special Staff on Aging" means the co-  
12 ordinating and information service unit which operates within  
13 the Office of the Secretary of Health, Education, and Wel-  
14 fare;

15 (3) The term "State" includes Alaska, Hawaii, the  
16 District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and  
17 Guam.

#### 18 TITLE II—WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON 19 AGING

20 SEC. 201. (a) A White House Conference on Aging to  
21 be called by the President of the United States in order to  
22 develop recommendations for further research and action in  
23 the field of aging, which will further the policies set forth  
24 in section 102 of this Act, shall be planned and conducted  
25 under the direction of the Special Staff on Aging which

1 shall have the cooperation and assistance of such other  
2 units of that Department and of other Federal departments  
3 and agencies as may be appropriate.

4 (b) For the purpose of arriving at facts and recom-  
5 mendations concerning the utilization of skills, experience,  
6 and energies and the improvement of the conditions of our  
7 older people, the conference shall bring together representa-  
8 tives of Federal, State, and local governments, professional  
9 and lay people who are working in the field of aging, and of  
10 the general public including older persons themselves.

11 (c) A final report of the White House Conference on  
12 Aging shall be submitted to the President not later than  
13 ninety days following the date on which the conference was  
14 called and the findings and recommendations included therein  
15 shall be immediately made available to the public.

#### 16 GRANTS

17 SEC. 202. (a) There is hereby authorized to be paid to  
18 each State which shall submit an application for funds for  
19 the exclusive use in planning and conducting a State confer-  
20 ence on aging prior to and for the purpose of developing  
21 facts and recommendations and preparing a report of the  
22 findings for presentation to the White House Conference  
23 on Aging, and in defraying costs incident to the State's dele-  
24 gates attending the White House Conference on Aging, a  
25 sum to be determined by the Secretary, but not more than

1 \$50,000; such sums to be paid only from funds specifically  
2 appropriated for this purpose.

3 (b) Payment shall be made by the Secretary to an  
4 officer designated by the Governor of the State to receive  
5 such payment and to assume responsibility for organizing  
6 and conducting the State conference.

### 7 TITLE III—GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### 8 ADMINISTRATION

9 SEC. 301. In administering this Act, the Special Staff  
10 on Aging shall:

11 (1) Request the cooperation and assistance of such  
12 other agencies of that Department and of other Federal  
13 departments and agencies as may be appropriate in carrying  
14 out the provisions of the Act;

15 (2) Render all reasonable assistance to the States in  
16 enabling them to organize and conduct conferences on aging  
17 prior to the White House Conference on Aging;

18 (3) Prepare and make available background materials  
19 for the use of delegates to the White House Conference as  
20 it may deem necessary and shall prepare and distribute  
21 such report or reports of the Conference as may be indicated;  
22 and

23 (4) In carrying out the provisions of this Act, engage  
24 such additional personnel as may be necessary (without



1 reference to the provisions of the Civil Service Act) within  
2 the amount of the funds appropriated for this purpose.

### 3 ADVISORY COMMITTEES

4 SEC. 302. The Secretary is authorized and directed to  
5 establish an Advisory Committee to the White House Con-  
6 ference on Aging composed of professional and public mem-  
7 bers, and, as necessary, to establish technical advisory com-  
8 mittees to advise and assist in planning and conducting the  
9 Conference. Appointed members of such committees, while  
10 attending conferences or meetings of their committees or  
11 otherwise serving at the request of the Secretary or Special  
12 Staff on Aging, shall be entitled to receive compensation  
13 at a rate to be fixed by the Secretary but not exceeding  
14 \$50 per diem, including travel time, and while away from  
15 their homes or regular places of business they may be al-  
16 lowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of sub-  
17 sistence, as authorized by law for persons in the Government  
18 service employed intermittently.

### 19 TITLE IV—AUTHORIZATION OF 20 APPROPRIATIONS

21 SEC. 401. There is hereby authorized to be appropri-  
22 ated such sums as Congress determines to be necessary for  
23 the administration of this Act.

85<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

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By Mr. FOGARTY

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