

# Senate Bill 1249

## Older Californians Act 2030

Senator Richard Roth (D-Riverside)

### SUMMARY

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In response to the needs of California’s rapidly aging and diversifying population, Senate Bill 1249 would update the Older Californians Act, administered by the Department of Aging (CDA), to establish performance and accountability measures, conform to new federal regulations, define core programs and services, align funding formulas with equity, improve governance structures, and establish timeframes for stakeholder engagement.

### BACKGROUND

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In June 2019, Executive Order N-14-19 called for a Master Plan for Aging (MPA) to prepare local communities for 2030 when one in four Californians will be age 60 or older, and affirmed the need for policies that promote aging with dignity and independence. The CDA oversees the state’s network of 33 designated Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), which deliver key services, including senior nutrition, information & assistance, caregiver supports and legal advice across all 58 California counties according to Planning and Service Areas (PSAs).

Between 2022-2024, CDA partnered with AAA stakeholders to reimagine the aging network for the future. CDA gathered expert opinions, conducted public webinars, and held hundreds of hours of interviews with AAAs, county representatives, advocates, and older adults to find key themes, which inform this bill’s approach.

### PROBLEM

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Recent national data ranks California second-to-last in “minority older consumers served”; and in a 2023 statewide survey of 17,000+ older Californians, respondents rated the state poorly on information and quality of older adult services. Older adults and their families need consistent, clear, and easy access

to services that promote independent living. Aging services do not, and should not, occur in silos. There is a clear value in aligning social supports to create collaborative networks, as evidenced by recent investments in CalAIM, behavioral health, and housing continuums of care. Furthermore, in February of this year, the Federal Administration for Community Living updated the Older Americans Act regulations for the first time in 36 years, taking effect on March 15, 2024. With the passage of the federal update, CDA is required to update its Older Americans Act by October 2025 in order to be in compliance. Key provisions of the federal regulations that need to be updated in state law include clarifying state and AAA policies and prioritizing those with the greatest social and economic needs.

### SOLUTION

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This bill codifies findings from CDA’s stakeholder listening sessions, updates the Older Californians Act to conform to federal regulations, and strengthens the AAA network. Major provisions include:

- Conform the Older Californians Act to the federal Older Americans Act, ensuring our state is in full compliance with the recently published final regulations before they take effect in October 2025.
- Require the CDA to develop, on or before September 2025, in consultation with AAAs and stakeholders, key new provisions, including a performance metrics; core programs and services; funding formulas; and a statewide engagement plan to improve outreach to underrepresented populations and underserved communities.

- Enable counties to petition CDA to operate their AAA consistent with federal law.

**SUPPORT**

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California Commission on Aging (Sponsor)

**STATUS**

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Senate – Human Services Committee

**CONTACT**

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