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## SENATE BILL NO. 1490

Offered January 9, 2019

Prefiled January 8, 2019

*A BILL to amend and reenact § 63.2-1606 of the Code of Virginia, relating to financial exploitation of aged or incapacitated adults; authority to refuse transactions or disbursements.*

Patrons—Obenshain and McPike; Delegate: Kory

Referred to Committee on Rehabilitation and Social Services

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That § 63.2-1606 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 63.2-1606. Protection of aged or incapacitated adults; mandated and voluntary reporting.**

A. Matters giving reason to suspect the abuse, neglect or exploitation of adults shall be reported immediately upon the reporting person's determination that there is such reason to suspect. Medical facilities inspectors of the Department of Health are exempt from reporting suspected abuse immediately while conducting federal inspection surveys in accordance with § 1864 of Title XVIII and Title XIX of the Social Security Act, as amended, of certified nursing facilities as defined in § 32.1-123. Reports shall be made to the local department or the adult protective services hotline in accordance with requirements of this section by the following persons acting in their professional capacity:

1. Any person licensed, certified, or registered by health regulatory boards listed in § 54.1-2503, with the exception of persons licensed by the Board of Veterinary Medicine;

2. Any mental health services provider as defined in § 54.1-2400.1;

3. Any emergency medical services provider certified by the Board of Health pursuant to § 32.1-111.5, unless such provider immediately reports the suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation directly to the attending physician at the hospital to which the adult is transported, who shall make such report forthwith;

4. Any guardian or conservator of an adult;

5. Any person employed by or contracted with a public or private agency or facility and working with adults in an administrative, supportive or direct care capacity;

6. Any person providing full, intermittent or occasional care to an adult for compensation, including, but not limited to, companion, chore, homemaker, and personal care workers; and

7. Any law-enforcement officer.

B. The report shall be made in accordance with subsection A to the local department of the county or city wherein the adult resides or wherein the adult abuse, neglect or exploitation is believed to have occurred or to the adult protective services hotline. Nothing in this section shall be construed to eliminate or supersede any other obligation to report as required by law. If a person required to report under this section receives information regarding abuse, neglect or exploitation while providing professional services in a hospital, nursing facility or similar institution, then he may, in lieu of reporting, notify the person in charge of the institution or his designee, who shall report such information, in accordance with the institution's policies and procedures for reporting such matters, immediately upon his determination that there is reason to suspect abuse, neglect or exploitation. Any person required to make the report or notification required by this subsection shall do so either orally or in writing and shall disclose all information that is the basis for the suspicion of adult abuse, neglect or exploitation. Upon request, any person required to make the report shall make available to the adult protective services worker and the local department investigating the reported case of adult abuse, neglect or exploitation any information, records or reports which document the basis for the report. All persons required to report suspected adult abuse, neglect or exploitation shall cooperate with the investigating adult protective services worker of a local department and shall make information, records and reports which are relevant to the investigation available to such worker to the extent permitted by state and federal law. Criminal investigative reports received from law-enforcement agencies shall not be further disseminated by the investigating agency nor shall they be subject to public disclosure; such reports may, however, be disclosed to the Adult Fatality Review Team as provided in § 32.1-283.5 or to a local or regional adult fatality review team as provided in § 32.1-283.6 and, if reviewed by the Team or a local or regional adult fatality review team, shall be subject to applicable confidentiality requirements of the Team or a local or regional adult fatality review team.

C. Any financial institution staff who suspects that an adult has been exploited financially may report such suspected *financial* exploitation to the local department of the county or city wherein the adult resides or wherein the exploitation is believed to have occurred or to the adult protective services

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59 hotline. For purposes of this section, "financial:

60 *"Financial exploitation" means the illegal, unauthorized, improper, or fraudulent use of the funds,*  
61 *property, benefits, resources, or other assets of an adult, as defined in § 63.2-1603, for another's profit,*  
62 *benefit, or advantage, including a caregiver or person serving in a fiduciary capacity, or that deprives*  
63 *the adult of his rightful use of or access to such funds, property, benefits, resources, or other assets.*  
64 *"Financial exploitation" includes (i) an intentional breach of a fiduciary obligation to an adult to his*  
65 *detriment or an intentional failure to use the financial resources of an adult in a manner that results in*  
66 *neglect of such adult; (ii) the acquisition, possession, or control of an adult's financial resources or*  
67 *property through the use of undue influence, coercion, or duress; and (iii) forcing or coercing an adult*  
68 *to pay for goods or services against his will for another's profit, benefit, or advantage if the adult did*  
69 *not agree, or was tricked, misled, or defrauded into agreeing, to pay for such goods or services.*

70 *"Financial institution staff" means any employee, agent, qualified individual, or representative of a*  
71 *bank, trust company, savings institution, loan association, consumer finance company, credit union,*  
72 *investment company, investment advisor, securities firm, accounting firm, or insurance company.*

73 D. Any person other than those specified in subsection A who suspects that an adult is an abused,  
74 neglected or exploited adult may report the matter to the local department of the county or city wherein  
75 the adult resides or wherein the abuse, neglect or exploitation is believed to have occurred or to the  
76 adult protective services hotline.

77 E. Any person who makes a report or provides records or information pursuant to subsection A, C,  
78 or D, or who testifies in any judicial proceeding arising from such report, records or information, or  
79 who takes or causes to be taken with the adult's or the adult's legal representative's informed consent  
80 photographs, video recordings, or appropriate medical imaging of the adult who is subject of a report  
81 shall be immune from any civil or criminal liability on account of such report, records, information,  
82 photographs, video recordings, appropriate medical imaging or testimony, unless such person acted in  
83 bad faith or with a malicious purpose.

84 F. An employer of a mandated reporter shall not prohibit a mandated reporter from reporting directly  
85 to the local department or to the adult protective services hotline. Employers whose employees are  
86 mandated reporters shall notify employees upon hiring of the requirement to report.

87 G. Any person 14 years of age or older who makes or causes to be made a report of adult abuse,  
88 neglect, or exploitation that he knows to be false shall be guilty of a Class 4 misdemeanor. Any  
89 subsequent conviction of this provision shall be a Class 2 misdemeanor.

90 H. Any person who fails to make a required report or notification pursuant to subsection A shall be  
91 subject to a civil penalty of not more than \$500 for the first failure and not less than \$100 nor more  
92 than \$1,000 for any subsequent failures. Civil penalties under subdivision A 7 shall be determined by a  
93 court of competent jurisdiction, in its discretion. All other civil penalties under this section shall be  
94 determined by the Commissioner for Aging and Rehabilitative Services or his designee. The  
95 Commissioner for Aging and Rehabilitative Services shall establish by regulation a process for imposing  
96 and collecting civil penalties, and a process for appeal of the imposition of such penalty pursuant to  
97 § 2.2-4026 of the Administrative Process Act.

98 I. Any mandated reporter who has reasonable cause to suspect that an adult died as a result of abuse  
99 or neglect shall immediately report such suspicion to the appropriate medical examiner and to the  
100 appropriate law-enforcement agency, notwithstanding the existence of a death certificate signed by a  
101 licensed physician. The medical examiner and the law-enforcement agency shall receive the report and  
102 determine if an investigation is warranted. The medical examiner may order an autopsy. If an autopsy is  
103 conducted, the medical examiner shall report the findings to law enforcement, as appropriate, and to the  
104 local department or to the adult protective services hotline.

105 J. No person or entity shall be obligated to report any matter if the person or entity has actual  
106 knowledge that the same matter has already been reported to the local department or to the adult  
107 protective services hotline.

108 K. All law-enforcement departments and other state and local departments, agencies, authorities and  
109 institutions shall cooperate with each adult protective services worker of a local department in the  
110 detection, investigation and prevention of adult abuse, neglect and exploitation.

111 L. *Financial institution staff may refuse to execute a transaction, may delay a transaction, or may*  
112 *refuse to disburse funds if the financial institution staff (i) believes in good faith that the transaction or*  
113 *disbursement may involve, facilitate, result in, or contribute to the financial exploitation of an adult or*  
114 *(ii) makes, or has actual knowledge that another person has made, a report to the local department or*  
115 *adult protective services hotline stating a good faith belief that the transaction or disbursement may*  
116 *involve, facilitate, result in, or contribute to the financial exploitation of an adult. The financial*  
117 *institution and its staff shall be immune from civil or criminal liability for refusing or not refusing to*  
118 *execute a transaction, delaying or not delaying a transaction, refusing or not refusing to disburse funds,*  
119 *or making or declining to make a report to the local department or the adult protective services hotline*  
120 *in good faith pursuant to this subsection. The authority of a financial institution staff to refuse to*

**121** *execute a transaction, to delay a transaction, or to refuse to disburse funds pursuant to this subsection*  
**122** *shall not be contingent upon whether financial institution staff has reported suspected financial*  
**123** *exploitation of the adult pursuant to subsection C.*