- 1 HB45
- 2 146815-2
- 3 By Representative DeMarco
- 4 RFD: Judiciary
- 5 First Read: 05-FEB-13
- 6 PFD: 01/24/2013

1	ENGROSSED
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4	A BILL
5	TO BE ENTITLED
6	AN ACT
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8	Relating to crimes; to create the crimes of
9	financial exploitation of an elderly person and elder abuse
10	and neglect in the first, second, and third degree; and to
11	provide penalties.
12	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:
13	Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited
14	as the Protecting Alabama's Elders Act.
15	Section 2. For purposes of this act, the following
16	terms shall have the following meanings:
17	(1) CAREGIVER. An individual who has the
18	responsibility for the care of an elderly person as a result
19	of family relationship or who has assumed the responsibility
20	for the care of the person voluntarily, for pecuniary gain, by
21	contract, or as a result of the ties of friendship.
22	(2) DECEPTION. Deception occurs when a person
23	knowingly:
24	a. Creates or confirms another's impression which is
25	false and which the defendant does not believe to be true.
26	b. Fails to correct a false impression which the
27	defendant previously has created or confirmed.

c. Fails to correct a false impression when the
 defendant is under a duty to do so.

3 d. Prevents another from acquiring information4 pertinent to the disposition of the property involved.

e. Sells or otherwise transfers or encumbers
property, failing to disclose a lien, adverse claim, or other
legal impediment to the enjoyment of the property, whether
that impediment is or is not valid, or is not a matter of
official record.

10 f. Promises performance which the defendant does not 11 intend to perform or knows will not be performed. Failure to 12 perform, standing alone, however, is not proof that the 13 defendant did not intend to perform.

14 (3) ELDERLY PERSON. A person 60 years of age or15 older.

16 (4) EMOTIONAL ABUSE. The intentional or reckless
17 infliction of emotional or mental anguish or the use of a
18 physical or chemical restraint, medication, or isolation as
19 punishment or as a substitute for treatment or care of any
20 elderly person.

(5) FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION. The use of deception, intimidation, undue influence, force, or threat of force to obtain or exert unauthorized control over an elderly person's property with the intent to deprive the elderly person of his or her property or the breach of a fiduciary duty to an elderly person by the person's guardian, conservator, or agent under a power of attorney which results in an unauthorized appropriation, sale, or transfer of the elderly person's
 property.

3 (6) INTIMIDATION. A threat of physical or emotional
4 harm to an elderly person, or the communication to an elderly
5 person that he or she will be deprived of food and nutrition,
6 shelter, property, prescribed medication, or medical care or
7 treatment.

8 (7) NEGLECT. The failure of a caregiver to provide 9 food, shelter, clothing, medical services, medication, or 10 health care for an elderly person.

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(8) PERSON. Any natural A human being.

(9) UNDUE INFLUENCE. Domination, coercion,
 manipulation, or any other act exercised by another person to
 the extent that an elderly person is prevented from exercising
 free judgment and choice.

16 Section 3. (a) A person commits the crime of elder 17 abuse and neglect in the first degree if he or she 18 intentionally abuses or neglects any elderly person and the 19 abuse or neglect causes serious physical injury to the elderly 20 person.

(b) Elder abuse and neglect in the first degree is aClass A felony.

23 Section 4. (a) A person commits the crime of elder 24 abuse and neglect in the second degree if he or she does any 25 of the following: (1) Intentionally abuses or neglects any elderly
 person and the abuse or neglect causes physical injury to the
 elderly person.

4 (2) Recklessly abuses or neglects any elderly person
5 and the abuse or neglect causes serious physical injury to the
6 elderly person.

7 (3) Recklessly abuses or neglects or emotionally
8 abuses any elderly person having been previously convicted of
9 elder abuse and neglect in the third degree in any court.

10 (b) Elder abuse and neglect in the second degree is11 a Class B felony.

12 Section 5. (a) A person commits the crime of elder 13 abuse and neglect in the third degree if he or she does any of 14 the following:

15 (1) Recklessly abuses or neglects any elderly person16 and the abuse or neglect causes physical injury.

17 (2) Emotionally <u>Recklessly emotionally</u> abuses any
 18 elderly person.

19 (b) Elder abuse and neglect in the third degree is a20 Class A misdemeanor.

21 Section 6. (a) The financial exploitation of an 22 elderly person in which the value of the property exceeds two 23 thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) constitutes financial 24 exploitation of the elderly person in the first degree.

(b) Financial exploitation of an elderly person inthe first degree is a Class B felony.

Section 7. (a) The financial exploitation of an
elderly person in which the value of the property exceeds five
hundred dollars (\$500) but does not exceed two thousand five
hundred dollars (\$2,500) constitutes financial exploitation of
the elderly person in the second degree.
(b) Financial exploitation of an elderly person in
the second degree is a Class C felony.

8 Section 8. (a) The financial exploitation of an 9 elderly person in which the value of the property does not 10 exceed five hundred dollars (\$500) constitutes financial 11 exploitation of the elderly person in the third degree.

12 (b) Financial exploitation of an elderly person in13 the third degree is a Class A misdemeanor.

14 Section 9. (a) In any prosecution brought for 15 financial exploitation of an elderly person, the crime shall 16 be considered to be committed in any county in which any part 17 of the crime took place, regardless of whether the defendant 18 was ever actually present in that county, or in the county of 19 residence of the person who is the subject of the financial 20 exploitation.

(b) Any prosecution brought for financial
exploitation of an elderly person shall be commenced within
seven years after the commission of the offense.

(c) It shall not be a defense to financial
exploitation of an elderly person that the accused reasonably
believed that the victim was not an elderly person.

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Section 10. Any person, firm, corporation, or official acting pursuant to this act, participating in a judicial proceeding resulting therefrom, or acting pursuant to any report of abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation of an elderly person, in doing so, shall be immune from any civil liability that might otherwise be incurred or imposed, unless such person acted in bad faith or with malicious purpose.

Any person or entity acting pursuant to this act in 8 reporting or investigating any report of abuse, neglect, or 9 10 financial exploitation of an elderly person, or participating in a judicial proceeding resulting therefrom, shall be immune 11 12 from any civil liability that might otherwise be incurred or 13 imposed as a result of the report, investigation, or 14 participation, unless the person or entity acted recklessly, 15 in bad faith, or with malicious purpose.

Section 11. Nothing in this act shall be construed to limit the remedies available to the victim pursuant to any state law relating to domestic violence, the Adult Protective Services Act of 1976, or any other applicable law.

20 Section 12. <u>No physician, as defined under Section</u> 21 <u>34-24-50.1 of the Code of Alabama 1975, who is licensed to</u> 22 <u>practice medicine in this state, shall be subject to Sections</u> 23 <u>3, 4, and 5 of this act for any acts or omissions constituting</u> 24 <u>the practice of medicine.</u>

25 Section 13. The provisions of this act are 26 severable. If any part of this act is declared invalid or 1 unconstitutional, that declaration shall not affect the part 2 which remains.

3 Section 14. This act shall become effective on the 4 first day of the third month following its passage and 5 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.

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3	House of Representatives
4 5 6 7	Read for the first time and re- ferred to the House of Representa- tives committee on Judiciary 05-FEB-13
8 9 10	Read for the second time and placed on the calendar 2 amendments
11 12 13	Read for the third time and passed as amended 02-APR-13 Yeas 85, Nays 5, Abstains 1
14 15 16 17	Jeff Woodard Clerk