

Sixty-fifth  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

## ENGROSSED SENATE BILL NO. 2163

Introduced by

Senators J. Lee, Dever, Heckaman

Representatives K. Koppelman, Delmore, Hogan

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 50-25.2 of the North Dakota  
2 Century Code, relating to the financial exploitation of vulnerable adults; to amend and reenact  
3 subsection 7 of section 50-25.2-01 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to the definition  
4 of financial exploitation; and to provide a penalty.

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

6 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Subsection 7 of section 50-25.2-01 of the North Dakota  
7 Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

8 7. "Financial exploitation" means use or receipt of services provided by the vulnerable  
9 adult without just compensation, the taking, acceptance, misappropriation, or misuse  
10 of property or resources of a vulnerable adult by means of undue influence, breach of  
11 a fiduciary relationship, deception, harassment, criminal coercion, theft, or other  
12 unlawful or improper means.

13 **SECTION 2.** A new section to chapter 50-25.2 of the North Dakota Century Code is created  
14 and enacted as follows:

15 **Civil remedy for financial exploitation - Damages - Commencement of action.**

16 1. A vulnerable adult who has been financially exploited has a cause of action against  
17 any perpetrator and may recover damages for that exploitation. The action may be  
18 brought in a court of competent jurisdiction by:

19 a. The vulnerable adult;

20 b. The vulnerable adult's guardian;

21 c. Any person acting on behalf of the vulnerable adult with the consent of the  
22 vulnerable adult; or

23 d. The personal representative of the estate of a deceased victim.

- 1        2. An action for financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult must be proven by clear and  
2        convincing evidence. If financial exploitation is proven, the court shall award to the  
3        plaintiff actual damages and reasonable attorney's fees and costs, including  
4        reasonable fees for the services of a conservator devoted to the litigation of a claim  
5        brought under this section.
- 6        3. If the financial exploitation of the vulnerable adult by the perpetrator involved  
7        oppression, fraud, deception, or actual malice, the court may award exemplary  
8        damages in accordance with subsection 5 of section 32-03.2-11.
- 9        4. An action for damages for financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult must be  
10       commenced within four years after the plaintiff discovers or, through exercise of  
11       reasonable diligence, should have discovered the facts constituting the financial  
12       exploitation.