

SENATE BILL NO. 2322

Introduced by

Senators J. Lee, O. Larsen, Heckaman

Representatives Keiser, K. Koppelman, Delmore

1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new section to chapter 10-04 of the North Dakota
2 Century Code, relating to the financial exploitation of vulnerable adults.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** A new section to chapter 10-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is created
5 and enacted as follows:

6 **Financial exploitation - Vulnerable adult.**

7 1. As used in this section:

8 a. "Eligible adult" means an adult who is at least sixty-five years old or a vulnerable
9 adult as defined in section 50-25.2-01.

10 b. "Financial exploitation" means:

11 (1) The wrongful or unauthorized taking, withholding, appropriation, or use of
12 money, assets, or property of an eligible adult; or

13 (2) Any act or omission taken by a person, including through the use of a power
14 of attorney, guardianship, or conservatorship of an eligible adult, to:

15 (a) Obtain control, through deception, intimidation, or undue influence,
16 over the eligible adult's money, assets, or property, to deprive the
17 eligible adult of the ownership, use, benefit, or possession of the
18 eligible adult's money, assets, or property; or

19 (b) Convert money, assets, or property of the eligible adult to deprive the
20 eligible adult of the ownership, use, benefit, or possession of the
21 eligible adult's money, assets, or property.

22 c. "Qualified individual" means any agent, investment adviser representative, or
23 person who serves in a supervisory, compliance, or legal capacity for a broker-
24 dealer or investment adviser.

- 1 2. If a qualified individual reasonably believes financial exploitation of an eligible adult
2 may have occurred, may have been attempted, or is being attempted, the qualified
3 individual shall notify the department of human services and the commissioner.
- 4 3. If a qualified individual reasonably believes financial exploitation of an eligible adult
5 may have occurred, may have been attempted, or is being attempted, a qualified
6 individual may notify a third party reasonably associated with the eligible adult or any
7 other person permitted under state or federal law or rule, rules of a self-regulating
8 organization, or customer agreement. Disclosure may not be made to a designated
9 third party who is suspected of financial exploitation or other abuse of the eligible
10 adult.
- 11 4. A qualified individual who in good faith and exercising reasonable care discloses
12 information under this section is immune from administrative or civil liability that might
13 otherwise result from disclosure or for any failure to notify the customer of the
14 disclosure.
- 15 5. a. A broker-dealer or investment adviser may delay a disbursement from an account
16 of an eligible adult or an account on which an eligible adult is a beneficiary if:
- 17 (1) The broker-dealer or investment adviser reasonably believes the requested
18 disbursement may result in financial exploitation of an eligible adult after
19 initiating an internal review of the requested disbursement and the
20 suspected financial exploitation; and
- 21 (2) The broker-dealer or investment adviser:
- 22 (a) Provides written notification of the delay and the reason for the delay
23 to all parties authorized to transact business on the account, unless a
24 party is reasonably believed to have engaged in suspected or
25 attempted financial exploitation of the eligible adult, within two days
26 after the requested disbursement;
- 27 (b) Notifies the department of human services and the commissioner
28 within two days after the requested disbursement; and
- 29 (c) Continues its internal review of the suspected or attempted financial
30 exploitation of the eligible adult as necessary.

- 1 b. Any delay of a disbursement authorized by this section expires upon the earlier
2 of:
- 3 (1) A determination by the broker-dealer or investment adviser that the
4 disbursement will not result in financial exploitation of the eligible adult; or
- 5 (2) Fifteen business days after the date on which the broker-dealer or
6 investment adviser first delayed disbursement of the funds, unless the
7 department of human services or the commissioner requests the broker-
8 dealer or investment adviser extend the delay, in which case the delay
9 expires within twenty-five business days after the date the broker-dealer or
10 investment adviser first delayed disbursement of the funds unless the delay
11 is terminated by either of the agencies or an order of a court of competent
12 jurisdiction.
- 13 c. A court of competent jurisdiction may enter an order extending the delay of the
14 disbursement of funds or may order other protective relief based on the broker-
15 dealer, investment adviser, or other interested party's petition that initiated the
16 delay under this section.
- 17 6. A broker-dealer or investment adviser who in good faith and exercising reasonable
18 care complies with this section is immune from any administrative or civil liability that
19 may otherwise arise from a delay in disbursement in accordance with this section.
- 20 7. A broker-dealer or investment adviser shall provide access to or copies of records that
21 are relevant to the suspected or attempted financial exploitation of an eligible adult to
22 the department of human services and to law enforcement, either as part of a referral
23 to the department or to law enforcement, or upon request of the department or law
24 enforcement pursuant to an investigation. The records may include historical records
25 and records relating to the most recent transaction that may comprise financial
26 exploitation of an eligible adult. Any record provided to the department of human
27 services or law enforcement under this section is an exempt record under chapter
28 44-04. This section does not limit or otherwise impede the authority of the
29 commissioner to access or examine the books and records of a broker-dealer or
30 investment adviser as otherwise provided by law.