
SENATE BILL 5406

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Senator Becker

Read first time 01/23/17. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to department of social and health services
2 responses to reports of abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation,
3 or neglect in certain long-term care settings; and amending RCW
4 74.34.063.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 **Sec. 1.** RCW 74.34.063 and 2005 c 274 s 354 are each amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (1)(a) The department shall initiate a response to a report, no
9 later than twenty-four hours after knowledge of the report, of
10 suspected abandonment, abuse, financial exploitation, neglect, or
11 self-neglect of a vulnerable adult.

12 (b) In the case of a report in an adult family home or assisted
13 living facility, the department shall designate the unit responsible
14 for conducting inspections under chapter 18.20 or 70.128 RCW, as
15 applicable, as the entity to initiate the first response to a report
16 on behalf of the department. If the initial report or investigation
17 by the entity indicates the alleged abandonment, abuse, financial
18 exploitation, or neglect has occurred, the entity shall immediately
19 notify the unit of the department responsible for conducting
20 investigations under this chapter, which shall then initiate its
21 investigation.

1 (2) When the initial report or investigation by the department
2 indicates that the alleged abandonment, abuse, financial
3 exploitation, or neglect may be criminal, the department shall make
4 an immediate report to the appropriate law enforcement agency. The
5 department and law enforcement will coordinate in investigating
6 reports made under this chapter. The department may provide
7 protective services and other remedies as specified in this chapter.

8 (3) The law enforcement agency or the department shall report the
9 incident in writing to the proper county prosecutor or city attorney
10 for appropriate action whenever the investigation reveals that a
11 crime may have been committed.

12 (4) The department and law enforcement may share information
13 contained in reports and findings of abandonment, abuse, financial
14 exploitation, and neglect of vulnerable adults, consistent with RCW
15 74.04.060, chapter 42.56 RCW, and other applicable confidentiality
16 laws.

17 (5) The department shall notify the proper licensing authority
18 concerning any report received under this chapter that alleges that a
19 person who is professionally licensed, certified, or registered under
20 Title 18 RCW has abandoned, abused, financially exploited, or
21 neglected a vulnerable adult.

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