

Chapter 3

(Senate Bill 407 of the 2020 Regular Session)

AN ACT concerning

Office of the Attorney General – Senior and Vulnerable Adult Asset Recovery Unit

FOR the purpose of establishing the Senior and Vulnerable Adult Asset Recovery Unit in the Office of the Attorney General; establishing the purpose of the Unit; authorizing the Unit to bring civil actions for damages under certain provisions of law against a person who commits certain crimes against vulnerable adults and seniors; providing that a certain conviction is not required for maintenance of an action under a certain provision of this Act; requiring the Governor, beginning in a certain fiscal year, to include a certain amount in the State budget to carry out this Act; requiring the Unit, at the direction of the Attorney General, to use the funds for certain purposes; defining a certain term; and generally relating to the Senior and Vulnerable Adult Asset Recovery Unit.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Commercial Law
Section 13–204(a)(15)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2013 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Commercial Law
Section 14–4201 through 14–4204 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 42. Senior and Vulnerable Adult Asset Recovery Unit”
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2013 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Corporations and Associations
Section 11–209(a)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2014 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Criminal Law
Section 8–801(b)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Commercial Law

13–204.

(a) In addition to any other of its powers and duties, the Division has the powers and duties to:

(15) (i) Bring a civil action for damages against a person who violates § 8–801 of the Criminal Law Article on behalf of a victim of the offense or, if the victim is deceased, the victim’s estate;

(ii) Recover damages under this item for property loss or damage;
and

(iii) If the Division prevails in an action brought under this item, recover the costs of the action for the use of the Office of the Attorney General.

SUBTITLE 42. SENIOR AND VULNERABLE ADULT ASSET RECOVERY UNIT.

14–4201.

IN THIS SUBTITLE, “UNIT” MEANS THE SENIOR AND VULNERABLE ADULT ASSET RECOVERY UNIT.

14–4202.

THERE IS A SENIOR AND VULNERABLE ADULT ASSET RECOVERY UNIT IN THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

14–4203.

(A) THE PURPOSE OF THE UNIT IS TO PROTECT SENIORS AND VULNERABLE ADULTS FROM FINANCIAL CRIMES UNDER § 8–801 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE.

(B) THE UNIT MAY BRING A CIVIL ACTION UNDER § 13–204(A)(15) OF THIS ARTICLE OR § 11–209(A) OF THE CORPORATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS ARTICLE FOR DAMAGES AGAINST A PERSON WHO VIOLATES § 8–801 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE.

(C) A CONVICTION FOR AN OFFENSE UNDER § 8–801 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE IS NOT A PREREQUISITE FOR MAINTENANCE OF AN ACTION UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.

14-4204.

(A) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022 AND EACH FISCAL YEAR THEREAFTER, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE STATE BUDGET AT LEAST \$250,000 TO CARRY OUT THIS SUBTITLE.

(B) AT THE DIRECTION OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE UNIT SHALL USE THE FUNDS INCLUDED IN THE STATE BUDGET UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION TO:

(1) HIRE NEW STAFF FOR THE UNIT; AND

(2) INVESTIGATE AND ASSIST ~~PROSECUTION BY~~ THE UNIT IN BRINGING CIVIL ACTIONS.

Article – Corporations and Associations

11-209.

(a) The Commissioner may:

(1) Bring a civil action for damages against a person that violates § 8-801 of the Criminal Law Article on behalf of a victim of the violation or, if the victim is deceased, the victim's estate;

(2) Recover damages under this subsection for property loss or damage; and

(3) If the Commissioner prevails in an action brought under this subsection, recover the costs of the action for the use of the Office of the Attorney General.

Article – Criminal Law

8-801.

(b) (1) A person may not knowingly and willfully obtain by deception, intimidation, or undue influence the property of an individual that the person knows or reasonably should know is a vulnerable adult with intent to deprive the vulnerable adult of the vulnerable adult's property.

(2) A person may not knowingly and willfully obtain by deception, intimidation, or undue influence the property of an individual that the person knows or reasonably should know is at least 68 years old, with intent to deprive the individual of the individual's property.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2020.

Gubernatorial Veto Override, February 11, 2021.