

AMENDMENT REQUESTED BY:
MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY SERVICES,
MARYLAND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL,
AND THE ARC MARYLAND

HB 33 – CRIMINAL LAW – ABUSE OR NEGLECT OF A VULNERABLE ADULT –
CAUSING SEVERE EMOTIONAL DISTRESS

(Working from sponsor amendments)

On page 2, starting on line 5:

2. THE INTENTIONAL AND MALICIOUS INFLICTION OF SEVERE EMOTIONAL DISTRESS BY USE OF ACTUAL OR THREATENED HARM, HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, HUMILIATION, OR ISOLATION, ~~OR OTHER MEANS THAT~~ PROFOUNDLY CONFUSES OR FRIGHTENS A VULNERABLE ADULT.

Explanation:

The requested amendment adds needed clarity and specificity to the felonious action. For some people, the nature of an intellectual disability, as well as the trauma that many experience, can contribute to confusion and fear. It is important that in order for an action to be a felony, the act be intentional and malicious.