



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: House Bill 320 – Exploitation of Vulnerable Adult or Elderly Individual – Undue Influence

SPONSOR: Delegates Shetty et al.,

HEARING DATE: February 4, 2020

COMMITTEE: Judiciary

CONTACT: Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 320**, which alters the definition of "undue influence" by prohibiting the exploitation of certain vulnerable adults or elderly individuals.

The proposed legislation seeks to define undue influence and applies the definition to an array of individuals who may have influence on adults over age 68 who may have a condition or circumstance that leaves them pre-disposed to have decisions made by other persons on their behalf. This bill seeks to protect those vulnerable adults from individuals who may use that influence and the elderly individual's circumstance for personal gain.

The proposed legislation gives specific guidance to the courts for circumstances to be taken into consideration that deal with intent, prior intent, value, and economic consequence to the victim.

The proposed legislation would provide an additional tool for law enforcement officers statewide to use in cases where existing theft and fraud statutes do not specifically apply to persons who are vulnerable and may by their own judgement, permit property, currency or other items of value to be taken from them.

For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive **SUPPORTS House Bill 320** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.