



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Wes Moore, Governor · Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor · Gloria Brown Burnett, Interim Secretary

March 10, 2026

The Honorable Kriselda Valderrama, Chair
House Economic Matters Committee
230 Taylor House Office Building
6 Bladen St
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

RE: TESTIMONY ON HB 1008 - FIDUCIARY INSTITUTIONS - EXPLOITATION OF SENIORS AND VULNERABLE ADULTS - PROTECTIONS AND (VULNERABLE ADULT BANKING PROTECTION ACT) - POSITION: FAVORABLE WITH AMENDMENTS

Dear Chair Valderrama and Members of the Economic Matters Committee:

The Maryland Department of Human Services (DHS) thanks the Committee for its consideration and respectfully requests a favorable report with amendments on House Bill 1008 (HB 1008).

With offices in every one of Maryland's jurisdictions, DHS provides preventative and supportive services, economic assistance, and meaningful connections to employment development and career opportunities to assist Marylanders in reaching their full potential. Our Social Services Administration implements the Adult Protective Services (APS) program which is affected by HB 1008. HB 1008 establishes authority for banks and other fiduciary institutions, such as credit unions and savings and loan institutions that are organized under Maryland's banking laws, to take action to prevent financial loss when they reasonably suspect that a vulnerable adult is being financially exploited. By codifying practices that help prevent and address the financial exploitation of vulnerable adults, HB 1008 would support APS by codifying a powerful tool to protect vulnerable adults in Maryland from exploitation.

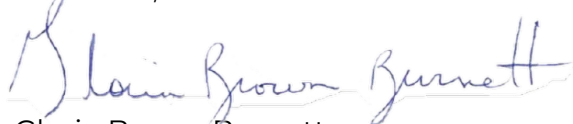
HB 1008 would authorize financial institutions to delay or deny suspicious transactions and promptly report concerns to APS or law enforcement, promoting earlier intervention and reducing the likelihood of significant financial loss. National data from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau estimates that older Americans lose billions of dollars annually to financial exploitation, underscoring the need for preventative tools such as those outlined in HB 1008.

HB 1008 would address the growing problem of financial exploitation of older and vulnerable adults, creating protections for banking transactions that largely mirror the protections that are in place with respect to transactions involving broker-dealers that are found in the Securities Act, specifically under [Corporations & Associations Article § 11-307](#). Under current law, banking institutions may identify concerning activity indicating that one of their customers is being victimized by a financial scam. As it stands, banking institutions lack any tools to delay transactions and prevent possible harm to their customers. HB 1008 would address this concern by granting explicit authority to banking institutions to delay or deny suspicious transactions, require reporting, and allow record sharing between APS and law enforcement.

Banking institutions are already required to report suspected financial exploitation to APS under [Financial Institutions § 1-306](#). By creating an additional tool to halt financial loss due to exploitation, HB1008 would strengthen early intervention and help prevent financial harm before losses escalate to extreme financial loss. DHS believes HB 1008 could be further strengthened by friendly amendments that are outlined on page three of our testimony. Our first amendment is technical, and relates to the limitations on APS authority to issue orders to financial institutions. Therefore, we propose amending the language under (c)(2)(ii) on page five of HB 1008 to clarify that APS will provide a formal written request to extend or terminate the stay. Our second amendment would update the preceding section under [Financial Institutions § 1-306\(c\)](#) to ensure that the protections against liability for financial institutions are updated to take into account the authority granted under HB 1008.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer favorable testimony with amendments to the Committee for consideration during your deliberations. If you require additional information, please contact Justin Hayes, Acting Director of Government Affairs, at justin.hayes1@maryland.gov.

In service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gloria Brown Burnett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G".

Gloria Brown Burnett
Interim Secretary

Proposed Amendments

Amendment No. 1

On page 05, line 09-11, in (2)(ii), strike “THE ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES PROGRAM IN THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, THE STATE’S ATTORNEY, OR” and strike the period after “delay” on line 12.

Amendment No. 2

insert beginning on line 12 after “delay”:

“; and

(III) THE ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES PROGRAM IN THE LOCAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, OR THE STATE’S ATTORNEY MAY PROVIDE WRITTEN NOTICE RECOMMENDING THAT THE STAY BE TERMINATED OR EXTENDED,”

Amendment No. 3

In [Financial Institutions § 1-306](#), strike (c), which currently reads as: “A report of financial exploitation filed under this section by a fiduciary institution or an officer, employee, agent, or director of a fiduciary institution shall be deemed to protect against or prevent actual or potential fraud, unauthorized transactions, or other liability.” and substitute:

“A FIDUCIARY INSTITUTION OR AN OFFICER, EMPLOYEE, AGENT, OR DIRECTOR OF A FIDUCIARY INSTITUTION SHALL BE DEEMED TO HAVE ACTED TO PROTECT AN ADULT ACCOUNT HOLDER AND SHALL BE IMMUNE FROM CIVIL, CRIMINAL, AND ADMINISTRATIVE LIABILITY FOR DELAYING OR REFUSING A TRANSACTION IF THE INSTITUTION ACTS IN GOOD FAITH AND EXERCISES REASONABLE CARE IN IMPLEMENTING A TRANSACTION DELAY OR OTHER PROTECTIVE MEASURE AUTHORIZED UNDER § 1-307 OF THIS SUBTITLE TO PREVENT SUSPECTED FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION.”