

SENATE BILL 327

D3

(11r1391)

ENROLLED BILL

— Judicial Proceedings/Judiciary —

Introduced by ~~Senator Waldstreicher~~ Senators Waldstreicher, Hettleman, Jackson, Lee, and West

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this _____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, _____ M.

President.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Civil Actions – Financial Exploitation of ~~Vulnerable~~ Susceptible Adults and**
3 **Older Adults**
4 **(Maryland SAFE Act)**

5 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Division of Consumer Protection in the Office of the
6 Attorney General to bring certain actions on behalf of certain susceptible adults and
7 older adults; authorizing the Securities Commissioner of the Division of Securities
8 of the Office of the Attorney General to bring a civil action on behalf of certain
9 susceptible adults and older adults; establishing a cause of action for certain
10 financial exploitation of certain ~~vulnerable adults; authorizing a vulnerable adult~~
11 susceptible adults and vulnerable adults; specifying that this Act does not apply to
12 certain financial institutions; authorizing a susceptible adult, older adult, or certain
13 individuals in certain representative capacities to bring an action under this Act
14 under certain circumstances; providing that an action authorized under this Act is

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.

Italics indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.



1 in addition to and cumulative with certain other claims, causes of action, and
 2 remedies and shall survive the death of the ~~vulnerable~~ susceptible adult or older
 3 adult; providing that a certain party in an action brought under this Act is entitled
 4 to recover certain damages and other relief under certain circumstances; authorizing
 5 the court to award reasonable attorney's fees and expenses to a party under certain
 6 circumstances; requiring an action under this Act to be brought within a certain
 7 period of time; providing for the purposes and construction of this Act; providing that
 8 this Act is not intended to alter or amend certain burdens of proof or certain
 9 presumptions; defining certain terms; providing for the application of this Act; and
 10 generally relating to the financial exploitation of ~~vulnerable~~ susceptible adults and
 11 older adults.

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

13 Article – Commercial Law

14 Section 13–204(a)(14) and (15)

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

17 BY adding to

18 Article – Commercial Law

19 Section 13–204(a)(16)

20 Annotated Code of Maryland

21 (2013 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

22 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

23 Article – Corporations and Associations

24 Section 11–209

25 Annotated Code of Maryland

26 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

27 BY adding to

28 Article – Estates and Trusts

29 Section 13–601 through ~~13–608~~ 13–609 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 6.

30 Financial Exploitation of ~~Vulnerable~~ Susceptible Adults and Older Adults”

31 and the amended title “Title 13. Protection of Minors, Disabled Persons, ~~and~~

32 ~~Vulnerable~~ Susceptible Adults, and Older Adults”

33 Annotated Code of Maryland

34 (2017 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

35 Preamble

36 WHEREAS, Financial exploitation of ~~vulnerable~~ susceptible adults and older adults
 37 over the age of ~~65~~ 67, including through theft, fraud, lottery scams, investment fraud, and
 38 unauthorized real estate transactions, is an endemic and growing problem in our society
 39 today; and

1 WHEREAS, Perpetrators of financial exploitation use a variety of actions and
2 tactics, including deception, intimidation, isolation, and undue influence; and

3 WHEREAS, While most family members, caregivers, fiduciaries, and other trusted
4 individuals provide needed and appropriate assistance to ~~vulnerable~~ susceptible adults and
5 older adults, the perpetrator is often someone serving in one of these capacities; and

6 WHEREAS, Financial exploitation may cause a victim to lose well-earned financial
7 security and drive the victim into poverty; and

8 WHEREAS, The consequences to the victim are not just limited to the financial
9 impact but often include lasting emotional, mental, and physical harm; and

10 WHEREAS, Studies have shown that millions of ~~vulnerable~~ Americans over the age
11 of ~~65~~ 67 may be targets annually, and the financial loss to victims of financial abuse is
12 estimated to be several billion dollars each year; and

13 WHEREAS, These estimated financial losses increase exponentially when additional
14 related costs to the victim, such as health care, social services, investigations, legal fees,
15 and lost income, are taken into account; and

16 WHEREAS, Redress for victims of financial exploitation in Maryland is limited to
17 adult protective services, criminal law enforcement, and costly civil remedies; and

18 WHEREAS, While adult protective services and the criminal justice system may
19 offer victims some protection from further harm, victims' cases are rarely prosecuted and
20 restitution, even when ordered, may never be paid; and

21 WHEREAS, The heightened burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt in a
22 criminal case, the difficulty of proving exploitation when the victim may be older or infirm,
23 and the limited remedies available to adult protective services and law enforcement further
24 support the need for a solution under civil law to address the financial exploitation of
25 ~~vulnerable~~ susceptible adults and older adults; now, therefore,

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

28 **Article – Commercial Law**

29 13–204.

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

32 (14) Maintain a list of nonprofit organizations that:

1 (i) Solely offer counseling or advice to homeowners in foreclosure or
 2 loan default; and

3 (ii) Are not directly or indirectly related to and do not contract for
 4 services with for-profit lenders or foreclosure purchasers, as defined in § 7-301 of the Real
 5 Property Article; [and]

6 (15) (i) Bring a civil action for damages or an action under this title
 7 against a person who violates § 8-801 of the Criminal Law Article on behalf of a victim of
 8 the offense or, if the victim is deceased, the victim's estate;

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

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

13 **(16) (I) BRING A CIVIL ACTION FOR DAMAGES OR AN ACTION UNDER**
 14 **THIS TITLE ON BEHALF OF A SUSCEPTIBLE ADULT OR OLDER ADULT WHO IS**
 15 **AUTHORIZED TO BRING A CAUSE OF ACTION UNDER § 13-603 OF THE ESTATES AND**
 16 **TRUSTS ARTICLE; AND**

17 **(II) IF THE DIVISION PREVAILS IN AN ACTION BROUGHT UNDER**
 18 **THIS ITEM, RECOVER THE COSTS OF THE ACTION FOR THE USE OF THE OFFICE OF**
 19 **THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.**

20 **Article – Corporations and Associations**

21 11-209.

22 (a) The Commissioner may:

23 (1) (I) Bring a civil action for damages against a person that violates §
 24 8-801 of the Criminal Law Article on behalf of a victim of the violation or, if the victim is
 25 deceased, the victim's estate;

26 [(2)] (II) Recover damages under this subsection for property loss or
 27 damage; and

28 [(3)] (III) If the Commissioner prevails in an action brought under this
 29 [subsection] PARAGRAPH, recover the costs of the action for the use of the Office of the
 30 Attorney General; AND

1 OR THE USE OF PROPERTY INTENDED TO BENEFIT A ~~VULNERABLE~~ SUSCEPTIBLE
2 ADULT OR OLDER ADULT.

3 (E) (1) "FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION" MEANS AN ACT TAKEN BY A PERSON
4 WHO:

5 (I) STANDS IN A POSITION OF TRUST AND CONFIDENCE WITH A
6 ~~VULNERABLE~~ SUSCEPTIBLE ADULT OR OLDER ADULT AND WHO KNOWINGLY
7 OBTAINS OR USES, OR ENDEAVORS TO OBTAIN OR USE, A ~~VULNERABLE~~ SUSCEPTIBLE
8 ADULT'S OR OLDER ADULT'S FUNDS, ASSETS, OR PROPERTY WITH THE INTENT TO
9 TEMPORARILY OR PERMANENTLY DEPRIVE THE ~~VULNERABLE~~ SUSCEPTIBLE ADULT
10 OR OLDER ADULT OF THE USE, BENEFIT, OR POSSESSION OF THE FUNDS, ASSETS, OR
11 PROPERTY FOR THE BENEFIT OF SOMEONE OTHER THAN THE ~~VULNERABLE~~
12 SUSCEPTIBLE ADULT OR OLDER ADULT, IN SUCH A MANNER THAT IS NOT FAIR AND
13 REASONABLE;

14 (II) BY DECEPTION, FALSE PRETENSES, FALSE PROMISES,
15 LARCENY, EMBEZZLEMENT, MISAPPLICATION, CONVERSION, INTIMIDATION,
16 COERCION, ISOLATION, EXCESSIVE PERSUASION, OR SIMILAR ACTIONS AND
17 TACTICS, OBTAINS OR USES, OR ENDEAVORS TO OBTAIN OR USE, A ~~VULNERABLE~~
18 SUSCEPTIBLE ADULT'S OR OLDER ADULT'S FUNDS, ASSETS, OR PROPERTY WITH THE
19 INTENT TO TEMPORARILY OR PERMANENTLY DEPRIVE THE ~~VULNERABLE~~
20 SUSCEPTIBLE ADULT OR OLDER ADULT OF THE USE, BENEFIT, OR POSSESSION OF
21 THE FUNDS, ASSETS, OR PROPERTY FOR THE BENEFIT OF SOMEONE OTHER THAN
22 THE ~~VULNERABLE~~ SUSCEPTIBLE ADULT OR OLDER ADULT; OR

23 (III) KNOWS OR SHOULD KNOW THAT A ~~VULNERABLE~~
24 SUSCEPTIBLE ADULT OR OLDER ADULT LACKS CAPACITY TO CONSENT AND WHO
25 OBTAINS OR USES, OR ENDEAVORS TO OBTAIN OR USE, THE ~~VULNERABLE~~
26 SUSCEPTIBLE ADULT'S OR OLDER ADULT'S FUNDS, ASSETS, OR PROPERTY WITH THE
27 INTENT TO TEMPORARILY OR PERMANENTLY DEPRIVE THE ~~VULNERABLE~~
28 SUSCEPTIBLE ADULT OR OLDER ADULT OF THE USE, BENEFIT, OR POSSESSION OF
29 THE FUNDS, ASSETS, OR PROPERTY FOR THE BENEFIT OF SOMEONE OTHER THAN
30 THE ~~VULNERABLE~~ SUSCEPTIBLE ADULT OR OLDER ADULT.

31 (2) "FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION" INCLUDES:

32 (I) BREACH OF A FIDUCIARY RELATIONSHIP RESULTING IN
33 THE UNAUTHORIZED APPROPRIATION, SALE, OR TRANSFER OF PROPERTY;

34 (II) UNAUTHORIZED TAKING OF PERSONAL ASSETS;

1 (iii) MISAPPROPRIATION, MISUSE, OR TRANSFER OF ASSETS
2 BELONGING TO A ~~VULNERABLE~~ SUSCEPTIBLE ADULT OR OLDER ADULT FROM A
3 PERSONAL OR JOINT ACCOUNT; AND

4 (iv) INTENTIONAL FAILURE TO EFFECTIVELY USE A
5 ~~VULNERABLE~~ SUSCEPTIBLE ADULT'S OR OLDER ADULT'S INCOME AND ASSETS FOR
6 THE NECESSITIES REQUIRED FOR THE ~~VULNERABLE~~ SUSCEPTIBLE ADULT'S OR
7 OLDER ADULT'S SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE.

8 (3) "FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION" DOES NOT INCLUDE AN
9 INDIVIDUAL'S GOOD-FAITH USE OF A ~~VULNERABLE~~ SUSCEPTIBLE ADULT'S OR
10 OLDER ADULT'S ASSETS, INCLUDING FOR THE PURPOSES OF ESTABLISHING AND
11 IMPLEMENTING AN ESTATE PLAN INTENDED TO REDUCE TAXES OR TO MAXIMIZE
12 ELIGIBILITY FOR PUBLIC BENEFITS IN ORDER TO PRESERVE ASSETS FOR AN
13 IDENTIFIED OR IDENTIFIABLE PERSON.

14 (f) "INSTRUMENTAL ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING" MEANS THE SKILLS AND
15 ABILITIES NEEDED TO PERFORM DAY-TO-DAY TASKS ASSOCIATED WITH AN
16 INDEPENDENT LIFESTYLE, INCLUDING:

- 17 (1) USING THE TELEPHONE;
- 18 (2) DOING LAUNDRY AND DRESSING;
- 19 (3) SHOPPING AND RUNNING ERRANDS;
- 20 (4) SECURING TRANSPORTATION;
- 21 (5) PREPARING MEALS;
- 22 (6) MANAGING MEDICATIONS;
- 23 (7) HOUSEKEEPING; AND
- 24 (8) MANAGING FINANCES.

25 (g) "INTIMIDATION" MEANS A COMMUNICATION, BY WORD OR ACT, THAT A
26 ~~VULNERABLE~~ SUSCEPTIBLE ADULT OR OLDER ADULT WILL SUFFER PHYSICAL
27 VIOLENCE OR EMOTIONAL INJURY OR WILL BE DEPRIVED OF FOOD, NUTRITION,
28 CLOTHING, SHELTER, SUPERVISION, MEDICINE, MEDICAL SERVICES, MONEY,
29 SOCIAL INTERACTION, OR EMOTIONAL OR FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

1 (H) "OBTAINS OR USES" MEANS ANY MANNER OF TAKING OR EXERCISING
 2 CONTROL OVER PROPERTY OR MAKING ANY USE, DISPOSITION, OR TRANSFER OF
 3 PROPERTY.

4 (I) "OLDER ADULT" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS AT LEAST 68 YEARS
 5 OLD.

6 ~~(J)~~ (J) "POSITION OF TRUST AND CONFIDENCE" MEANS A RELATIONSHIP,
 7 WHETHER FORMED BY A FORMAL OR INFORMAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN A
 8 ~~VULNERABLE~~ SUSCEPTIBLE ADULT OR OLDER ADULT AND ANOTHER PERSON OR
 9 RECOGNIZED BY A FORMAL DECLARATION OR COURT ORDER, IN WHICH:

10 (1) A PERSON IS ENTRUSTED WITH THE USE OR MANAGEMENT OF THE
 11 PROPERTY OR ASSETS OF THE ~~VULNERABLE ADULT OR THE VULNERABLE~~
 12 SUSCEPTIBLE ADULT OR OLDER ADULT, OR THE SUSCEPTIBLE ADULT'S OR OLDER
 13 ADULT'S CARE; OR

14 (2) THERE IS A SPECIAL CONFIDENCE OR TRUST PLACED IN A PERSON
 15 WHO, IN EQUITY AND GOOD CONSCIENCE, IS BOUND TO ACT IN GOOD FAITH AND
 16 WITH DUE REGARD TO THE INTERESTS OF THE ~~VULNERABLE~~ SUSCEPTIBLE ADULT
 17 OR OLDER ADULT.

18 ~~(J)~~ (K) ~~"VULNERABLE~~ "SUSCEPTIBLE ADULT" MEANS AN ADULT WHO IS
 19 UNABLE TO PERFORM, WITHOUT PROMPTING OR ASSISTANCE, ONE OR MORE
 20 ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING, IS UNABLE TO PROTECT THE ADULT'S RIGHTS, OR HAS
 21 DIMINISHED EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING, DUE TO:

22 (1) ADVANCED AGE;

23 (2) MENTAL, EMOTIONAL, SENSORY, OR PHYSICAL DISABILITY OR
 24 DISEASE;

25 (3) IMPAIRED MOBILITY;

26 (4) HABITUAL DRUNKENNESS;

27 (5) ADDICTION TO DRUGS; OR

28 (6) HOSPITALIZATION.

29 13-602.

30 THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBTITLE ARE TO:

1 (1) ESTABLISH A SEPARATE AND DISTINCT CIVIL CAUSE OF ACTION
2 BY A VICTIM, OR A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE VICTIM, OF FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION;

3 (2) PROVIDE A PATH TO REDRESS FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION
4 THROUGH THE RECOVERY OF PROPERTY AND ASSETS TAKEN FROM VICTIMS WHILE
5 DISCOURAGING PROTRACTED LITIGATION;

6 (3) PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES
7 WHO ARE OTHERWISE UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO RETAIN COMPETENT LEGAL
8 ASSISTANCE DUE TO COST; AND

9 (4) STRONGLY DETER INDIVIDUALS SEEKING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE
10 OF ~~VULNERABLE~~ SUSCEPTIBLE ADULTS OR OLDER ADULTS.

11 13-603.

12 THIS SUBTITLE DOES NOT APPLY TO AN ACT TAKEN BY:

13 (1) ANY STATE OR FEDERAL BANK, TRUST COMPANY, CREDIT UNION,
14 OR SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION; OR

15 (2) A SUBSIDIARY OR AFFILIATE OF AN INSTITUTION DESCRIBED IN
16 ITEM (1) OF THIS SECTION.

17 ~~13-603.~~ 13-604.

18 A ~~VULNERABLE~~ SUSCEPTIBLE ADULT OR OLDER ADULT WHO HAS BEEN
19 SUBJECTED TO FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION IN THE STATE OR, IN ACCORDANCE WITH
20 § ~~13-604~~ 13-605 OF THIS SUBTITLE, A PERSON ACTING ON THE ~~VULNERABLE~~
21 SUSCEPTIBLE ADULT'S OR OLDER ADULT'S BEHALF MAY BRING A CAUSE OF ACTION
22 AGAINST A PERSON WHO HAS COMMITTED FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION AGAINST THE
23 ~~VULNERABLE~~ SUSCEPTIBLE ADULT OR OLDER ADULT TO RECOVER DAMAGES AND
24 OBTAIN OTHER APPROPRIATE RELIEF AS SET FORTH UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.

25 ~~13-604.~~ 13-605.

26 (A) AN ACTION MAY BE BROUGHT UNDER THIS SUBTITLE BY A ~~VULNERABLE~~
27 SUSCEPTIBLE ADULT OR OLDER ADULT OR BY A PERSON SERVING IN ONE OR MORE
28 OF THE FOLLOWING REPRESENTATIVE CAPACITIES FOR A ~~VULNERABLE~~
29 SUSCEPTIBLE ADULT OR OLDER ADULT:

30 (1) AN ATTORNEY IN FACT, GUARDIAN, TRUSTEE, OR OTHER
31 FIDUCIARY ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE ~~VULNERABLE~~ SUSCEPTIBLE ADULT OR

1 OLDER ADULT, OR A SUCCESSOR NAMED IN AN INSTRUMENT PROVIDING SUCH
2 AUTHORIZATION;

3 (2) A PERSON AUTHORIZED TO MAKE HEALTH CARE DECISIONS FOR
4 THE ~~VULNERABLE~~ SUSCEPTIBLE ADULT OR OLDER ADULT, OR A SUCCESSOR NAMED
5 IN AN INSTRUMENT PROVIDING THE AUTHORIZATION;

6 (3) A SPOUSE, PARENT, OR DESCENDENT OF THE ~~VULNERABLE~~
7 SUSCEPTIBLE ADULT OR OLDER ADULT;

8 (4) AN INDIVIDUAL WHO WOULD QUALIFY AS THE ~~VULNERABLE~~
9 SUSCEPTIBLE ADULT'S OR OLDER ADULT'S PRESUMPTIVE HEIR;

10 (5) A PERSON NAMED AS A BENEFICIARY TO RECEIVE ANY PROPERTY,
11 BENEFIT, OR CONTRACTUAL RIGHT ON THE ~~VULNERABLE~~ SUSCEPTIBLE ADULT'S OR
12 OLDER ADULT'S DEATH, INCLUDING A PERSON WHO WOULD BE A BENEFICIARY BUT
13 FOR THE FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION;

14 (6) THE PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OR SPECIAL ADMINISTRATOR
15 OF AN ESTATE OF A DECEASED ~~VULNERABLE~~ SUSCEPTIBLE ADULT OR OLDER
16 ADULT; OR

17 (7) A GOVERNMENT AGENCY THAT OTHERWISE HAS AUTHORITY AND
18 JURISDICTION, INCLUDING:

19 (i) THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER PROTECTION IN THE OFFICE
20 OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL; AND

21 (ii) THE SECURITIES COMMISSIONER OF THE DIVISION OF
22 SECURITIES IN THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.

23 (B) A CAUSE OF ACTION AUTHORIZED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE:

24 (1) IS IN ADDITION TO AND CUMULATIVE WITH ANY OTHER CRIMINAL
25 OR ADMINISTRATIVE CLAIMS, CAUSES OF ACTION AT LAW OR IN EQUITY, OR
26 REMEDIES OTHERWISE AVAILABLE TO THE ~~VULNERABLE~~ SUSCEPTIBLE ADULT OR
27 OLDER ADULT, INCLUDING AN ACTION UNDER § 13-204 OF THE COMMERCIAL LAW
28 ARTICLE AND § 11-209 OF THE CORPORATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS ARTICLE; AND

29 (2) SHALL SURVIVE THE DEATH OF THE ~~VULNERABLE~~ SUSCEPTIBLE
30 ADULT OR OLDER ADULT.

31 ~~13-605~~ 13-606.

1 (A) (1) A PLAINTIFF IN AN ACTION BROUGHT UNDER THIS SUBTITLE IS
2 ENTITLED TO RECOVER COMPENSATORY DAMAGES ~~AND, AS APPROPRIATE AND~~
3 ~~SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, PUNITIVE DAMAGES.~~

4 (2) THE DAMAGES AWARDED UNDER THIS SECTION ARE IN ADDITION
5 TO AND CUMULATIVE WITH OTHER LAWFUL AND ADMINISTRATIVE DAMAGES
6 AVAILABLE TO A PARTY.

7 (B) A PARTY WHO BRINGS AN ACTION UNDER THIS SUBTITLE TO RECOVER
8 FOR INJURY OR LOSS AND IS AWARDED COMPENSATORY DAMAGES MAY ALSO SEEK
9 AND THE COURT MAY AWARD AN AMOUNT NOT EXCEEDING THREE TIMES THE
10 COMPENSATORY DAMAGES AND PREJUDGMENT INTEREST.

11 ~~(B) A PARTY WHO BRINGS AN ACTION UNDER THIS SUBTITLE TO RECOVER~~
12 ~~FOR INJURY OR LOSS AND IS AWARDED COMPENSATORY DAMAGES MAY ALSO SEEK~~
13 ~~AND THE COURT MAY AWARD AN AMOUNT NOT EXCEEDING THREE TIMES THE~~
14 ~~COMPENSATORY DAMAGES AND PREJUDGMENT INTEREST.~~

15 ~~(C)~~ ~~(B)~~ (C) (1) IN ADDITION TO MONETARY DAMAGES, A PARTY WHO
16 BRINGS AN ACTION UNDER THIS SUBTITLE IS ALSO ENTITLED TO:

17 (I) ANY OTHER APPROPRIATE RELIEF, INCLUDING
18 EMERGENCY, PRELIMINARY OR PERMANENT INJUNCTION, RESCISSION,
19 RESTITUTION, ACCOUNTING, UNJUST ENRICHMENT, DECLARATORY RELIEF, AND
20 CONSTRUCTIVE TRUST; AND

21 (II) EMERGENCY OR INTERIM INJUNCTIVE RELIEF TO
22 PRESERVE THE ASSETS OF THE ~~VULNERABLE~~ SUSCEPTIBLE ADULT OR OLDER
23 ADULT, WITHOUT THE REQUIREMENT OF A BOND IN THE DISCRETION OF THE
24 COURT.

25 (2) THE REMEDIES PROVIDED IN THIS SUBSECTION ARE IN ADDITION
26 TO AND CUMULATIVE WITH OTHER LEGAL, EQUITABLE, AND ADMINISTRATIVE
27 REMEDIES AVAILABLE TO A PARTY.

28 ~~(D)~~ ~~(C)~~ (D) THE COURT MAY AWARD REASONABLE ATTORNEY'S FEES AND
29 EXPENSES TO ANY PERSON WHO BRINGS AN ACTION UNDER THIS SUBTITLE FOR
30 INJURY OR LOSS AND IS AWARDED DAMAGES OR ANY OTHER REMEDY.

31 ~~(E)~~ ~~(D)~~ (E) IF IT APPEARS TO THE SATISFACTION OF THE COURT, AT ANY
32 TIME, THAT AN ACTION IS BROUGHT IN BAD FAITH OR IS OF A FRIVOLOUS NATURE,
33 THE COURT MAY ORDER THE OFFENDING PARTY TO PAY TO THE OTHER PARTY
34 REASONABLE ATTORNEY'S FEES AND EXPENSES.

1 ~~13-606.~~ 13-607.

2 (A) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, AN ACTION
3 UNDER THIS SUBTITLE SHALL BE COMMENCED WITHIN 5 YEARS AFTER THE
4 ~~VULNERABLE ADULT OR THE VULNERABLE~~ SUSCEPTIBLE ADULT OR OLDER ADULT,
5 OR THE SUSCEPTIBLE ADULT'S OR OLDER ADULT'S REPRESENTATIVE DISCOVERS
6 OR, THROUGH THE EXERCISE OF REASONABLE DILIGENCE, SHOULD HAVE
7 DISCOVERED THE FACTS CONSTITUTING FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION.

8 (B) (1) IF A CRIMINAL PROSECUTION IS COMMENCED THAT ARISES OUT
9 OF THE SAME FACTS AS AN ACTION UNDER THIS SUBTITLE, THE TIME DURING WHICH
10 THE PROSECUTION IS PENDING SHALL NOT BE COMPUTED AS PART OF THE PERIOD
11 WITHIN WHICH THE ACTION UNDER THIS SUBTITLE MAY BE BROUGHT.

12 (2) AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE CRIMINAL PROSECUTION
13 DESCRIBED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE ACTION UNDER THIS
14 SUBTITLE MAY BE BROUGHT WITHIN THE LATER OF:

15 (I) THE REMAINDER OF THE PERIOD SPECIFIED UNDER
16 SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION; OR

17 (II) 1 YEAR.

18 ~~13-607.~~ 13-608.

19 (A) THIS SUBTITLE SHALL BE CONSTRUED AND APPLIED LIBERALLY TO
20 PROMOTE ITS PURPOSE OF DETERRING AND REMEDYING THE FINANCIAL
21 EXPLOITATION OF ~~VULNERABLE~~ SUSCEPTIBLE ADULTS AND OLDER ADULTS.

22 (B) THIS SUBTITLE IS NOT INTENDED TO ALTER OR AMEND THE BURDENS
23 OF PROOF OR PRESUMPTIONS REQUIRED BY LAW.

24 ~~13-608.~~ 13-609.

25 THIS SUBTITLE MAY BE CITED AS THE MARYLAND STATUTE AGAINST
26 FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION (SAFE) ACT.

27 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall be construed to
28 apply only prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have any effect on or
29 application to any cause of action arising before the effective date of this Act.

30 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
31 October 1, 2021.