

Date: March 23, 2022

Bill number: SB0357

Committee: Judiciary Committee

Bill title: Adult Protective Services - Vulnerable Adults Registry - Investigations and Records of Abuse and Neglect and Workgroup Study

DHS Position: Favorable

The Department of Human Services (the Department) respectfully offers this letter of support, with amendments, for Senate Bill 357 (SB 357). SB 357 directs the Department to create an Adult Protective Services (APS) registry that captures the outcome of abuse and neglect investigations for vulnerable adults. The bill also creates a workgroup to study how best to design and implement a Statewide registry.

There are currently 26 states with APS adult abuser registries. A report published in 2018 by the National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA) highlights the scope of registries, key organizational characteristics and processes, resources used to operate registries, access to and uses of registry information, and perspectives on lessons learned by states in operating registries.¹ Themes arising from the information collected in this study include but are not limited to:

- Reducing access of abusers to vulnerable adults and improving hiring practices of providers through the implementation of APS abuse registries;
- Significant diversity in operations and uses of APS abuse registries;
- Common components of APS abuse registries include perpetrator notification and the existence of due process provisions;
- Resources needed to operate APS abuse registries;
- Length of time and administrative considerations of due process and information systems;

The Department appreciates the opportunity to support SB 357, with the amendments as adopted by the Senate, and requests a favorable report.

¹ <http://www.napsa-now.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/APS-Abuse-Registry-Report.pdf>