1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18 19

20

21

22

23

24

25

2021

A bill to be entitled An act relating to protection of elderly persons and disabled adults; amending s. 16.56, F.S.; adding offenses concerning elderly persons and disabled adults to the authority of the Office of Statewide Prosecution; amending s. 733.303, F.S.; providing that a person who has been convicted of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of an elderly person or a disabled adult is not qualified to act as a personal representative; creating s. 732.8031, F.S.; providing for forfeiture of specified benefits of persons who have been convicted of certain offenses involving elderly persons or disabled adults; providing that certain persons who have been convicted of certain offenses involving elderly persons or disabled adults may still retain an inheritance, survivorship rights, other rights, or a trust interest if the victim executes a specified instrument; amending s. 736.1104, F.S.; providing that a beneficiary of a trust may not benefit under the trust if the person was convicted of certain offenses involving elderly persons or disabled adults; amending s. 825.101, F.S.; defining terms; amending s. 825.102, F.S.; specifying additional conduct that constitutes abuse of an elderly person or a disabled adult; providing a defense to certain

Page 1 of 21

2021

violations; providing criminal penalties; amending s. 825.103, F.S.; specifying additional conduct that constitutes exploitation of an elderly person or a disabled adult; providing criminal penalties; amending s. 825.1035, F.S.; revising provisions concerning injunctions for protection against exploitation of a vulnerable adult; providing for extension of ex parte temporary injunctions; providing an effective date.

3435

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

3637

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

4950

Section 1. Paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 16.56, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

16.56 Office of Statewide Prosecution. -

- (1) There is created in the Department of Legal Affairs an Office of Statewide Prosecution. The office shall be a separate "budget entity" as that term is defined in chapter 216. The office may:
 - (a) Investigate and prosecute the offenses of:
- 1. Bribery, burglary, criminal usury, extortion, gambling, kidnapping, larceny, murder, prostitution, perjury, robbery, carjacking, home-invasion robbery, and patient brokering;
 - 2. Any crime involving narcotic or other dangerous drugs;
- 3. Any violation of the Florida RICO (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization) Act, including any offense listed in

Page 2 of 21

51

52

53

54

55

56

57

58

59

60

61 62

63

64

65

66

67

68

69

70

71

```
the definition of racketeering activity in s. 895.02(8)(a), providing such listed offense is investigated in connection with a violation of s. 895.03 and is charged in a separate count of an information or indictment containing a count charging a violation of s. 895.03, the prosecution of which listed offense may continue independently if the prosecution of the violation of s. 895.03 is terminated for any reason;
```

- 4. Any violation of the Florida Anti-Fencing Act;
- 5. Any violation of the Florida Antitrust Act of 1980, as amended;
- 6. Any crime involving, or resulting in, fraud or deceit upon any person;
- 7. Any violation of s. 847.0135, relating to computer pornography and child exploitation prevention, or any offense related to a violation of s. 847.0135 or any violation of chapter 827 where the crime is facilitated by or connected to the use of the Internet or any device capable of electronic data storage or transmission;
 - 8. Any violation of chapter 815;
 - 9. Any violation of chapter 825;
 - 10.9. Any criminal violation of part I of chapter 499;
- 72 <u>11.10.</u> Any violation of the Florida Motor Fuel Tax Relief 73 Act of 2004;
- 74 <u>12.11.</u> Any criminal violation of s. 409.920 or s. 409.9201;

Page 3 of 21

2021

76 13.12. Any crime involving voter registration, voting, or 77 candidate or issue petition activities; 78 14.13. Any criminal violation of the Florida Money 79 Laundering Act; 80 15.14. Any criminal violation of the Florida Securities 81 and Investor Protection Act; or 82 16.15. Any violation of chapter 787, as well as any and 83 all offenses related to a violation of chapter 787; 84 85 or any attempt, solicitation, or conspiracy to commit any of the crimes specifically enumerated above. The office shall have such 86 87 power only when any such offense is occurring, or has occurred, in two or more judicial circuits as part of a related 88 89 transaction, or when any such offense is connected with an 90 organized criminal conspiracy affecting two or more judicial circuits. Informations or indictments charging such offenses 91 92 shall contain general allegations stating the judicial circuits 93 and counties in which crimes are alleged to have occurred or the 94 judicial circuits and counties in which crimes affecting such 95 circuits or counties are alleged to have been connected with an 96 organized criminal conspiracy. 97 Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 733.303, Florida Statutes, is amended to read: 98 733.303 Persons not qualified.-99 100 (1) A person is not qualified to act as a personal

Page 4 of 21

2021

101 representative if the person: 102 (a) Has been convicted of a felony. 103 (b) Has been convicted in any state or foreign jurisdiction of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of an elderly 104 105 person or a disabled adult, as those terms are defined in s. 106 825.101. 107 (c) (b) Is mentally or physically unable to perform the 108 duties. 109 (d) $\frac{(c)}{(c)}$ Is under the age of 18 years. 110 Section 3. Section 732.8031, Florida Statutes, is created to read: 111 112 732.8031 Forfeiture for abuse, neglect, exploitation, or aggravated manslaughter of an elderly person or a disabled 113 114 adult.-115 (1) A surviving person who is convicted in any state or 116 foreign jurisdiction of abuse, neglect, exploitation, or 117 aggravated manslaughter of an elderly person or a disabled 118 adult, as those terms are defined in s. 825.101, for conduct 119 against the decedent or another person on whose death such 120 beneficiary's interest depends is not entitled to any benefits 121 under the will of the decedent or the Florida Probate Code, and 122 the estate of the decedent passes as if the abuser, neglector, 123 exploiter, or killer had predeceased the decedent. Property

Page 5 of 21

appointed by the will of the decedent to or for the benefit of

the abuser, neglector, exploiter, or killer passes as if the

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

124

- abuser, neglector, exploiter, or killer had predeceased the decedent.
 - (a) A final judgment of conviction for abuse, neglect, exploitation, or aggravated manslaughter of the decedent or other person creates a rebuttable presumption that this section applies.
 - (b) In the absence of a qualifying conviction, the court may determine by the greater weight of the evidence whether the decedent's or other person's death was caused by or contributed to by the abuser's, neglector's, exploiter's, or killer's conduct as defined in s. 825.102, s. 825.103, or s. 782.07(2) for purposes of this section.
 - (2) A joint tenant who is convicted in any state or foreign jurisdiction of abuse, neglect, exploitation, or aggravated manslaughter of an elderly person or a disabled adult, as those terms are defined in s. 825.101, for conduct against another joint tenant decedent thereby effects a severance of the interest of the decedent so that the share of the decedent passes as the decedent's sole property and as if the abuser, neglector, exploiter, or killer has no rights by survivorship. This subsection applies to joint tenancies with right of survivorship and tenancies by the entirety in real and personal property; joint and multiple-party accounts in banks, savings and loan associations, credit unions, and other financial institutions; and any other form of coownership with

Page 6 of 21

survivorship interests.

- (a) A final judgment of conviction for abuse, neglect, exploitation, or aggravated manslaughter of the decedent or other person creates a rebuttable presumption that this section applies.
- (b) In the absence of a qualifying conviction, the court may determine by the greater weight of the evidence whether the decedent's or other person's death was caused by or contributed to by the abuser's, neglector's, exploiter's, or killer's conduct as defined in s. 825.102, s. 825.103, or s. 782.07(2) for purposes of this section.
- (3) A named beneficiary of a bond, life insurance policy, or other contractual arrangement who is convicted in any state or foreign jurisdiction of abuse, neglect, exploitation, or aggravated manslaughter of an elderly person or a disabled adult, as those terms are defined in s. 825.101, for conduct against the owner or principal obligee of the bond, life insurance policy, or other contractual arrangement or the person upon whose life such policy was issued is not entitled to any benefit under the bond, policy, or other contractual arrangement, and the bond, policy, or other contractual arrangement becomes payable as though the abuser, neglector, exploiter, or killer had predeceased the decedent.
- (a) A final judgment of conviction for abuse, neglect, exploitation, or aggravated manslaughter of the decedent or

Page 7 of 21

- other person creates a rebuttable presumption that this section applies.
 - (b) In the absence of a qualifying conviction, the court may determine by the greater weight of the evidence whether the decedent's or other person's death was caused by or contributed to by the abuser's, neglector's, exploiter's, or killer's conduct as defined in s. 825.102, s. 825.103, or s. 782.07(2) for purposes of this section.
 - (4) Any other property or interest acquired as a result of the abuse, neglect, exploitation, or manslaughter must be returned in accordance with this section.
 - (5) (a) This section does not affect the rights of any person who purchases property for value and without notice from the abuser, neglector, exploiter, or killer before rights have been adjudicated in accordance with this section.
 - (b) The abuser, neglector, exploiter, or killer is liable for the amount of the proceeds or the value of the property under paragraph (a).
 - (6) Any insurance company, financial institution, or other obligor making payment according to the terms of its policy or obligation is not liable by reason of this section unless more than 2 business days before payment it receives at its home office or principal address written notice, or in the case of a financial institution it receives notice in accordance with s. 655.0201, of a claim under this section.

Page 8 of 21

(7) This section does not apply if it can be proven by clear and convincing evidence that, after the conviction of abuse, neglect, or exploitation, the victim of the offense, if capacitated, ratifies an intent that the person so convicted of abuse, neglect, or exploitation retain his or her inheritance, survivorship rights, or any other right that might otherwise be removed by this section by executing a valid written instrument, sworn to and witnessed by two persons who would be competent as witnesses to a will, which expresses a specific intent to allow the convicted person to retain his or her inheritance, survivorship rights, or any other right that might otherwise be removed by this section.

Section 4. Subsection (3) is added to section 736.1104,

Section 4. Subsection (3) is added to section 736.1104, Florida Statutes, to read:

736.1104 <u>Person</u> Killer not entitled to receive property or other benefits by reason of victim's death.—

(3) A beneficiary of a trust who was convicted in any state or foreign jurisdiction of abuse, neglect, exploitation, or aggravated manslaughter of an elderly person or a disabled adult, as those terms are defined in s. 825.101, for conduct against a settlor or another person on whose death such beneficiary's interest depends is not entitled to any trust interest, including a homestead dependent on the victim's death, and such interest shall devolve as though the abuser, neglector, exploiter, or killer had predeceased the victim.

Page 9 of 21

226	(a) A final judgment of conviction for abuse, neglect,
227	exploitation, or aggravated manslaughter of the decedent or
228	other person creates a rebuttable presumption that this section
229	applies.
230	(b) In the absence of a qualifying conviction, the court
231	may determine by the greater weight of the evidence whether the
232	decedent's or other person's death was caused by or contributed
233	to by the abuser's, neglector's, exploiter's, or killer's
234	conduct as defined in s. 825.102, s. 825.103, or s. 782.07(2)
235	for purposes of this section.
236	(c) This subsection does not apply if it can be proven by
237	clear and convincing evidence that, after the conviction of
238	abuse, neglect, or exploitation, the victim of the offense, if
239	capacitated, ratifies an intent that the person so convicted of
240	abuse, neglect, or exploitation retain a trust interest by
241	executing a valid written instrument, sworn to and witnessed by
242	two persons who would be competent as witnesses to a will, which
243	expresses a specific intent to allow the convicted person to
244	retain a trust interest.
245	Section 5. Subsections (8) through (14) of section
246	825.101, Florida Statutes, are renumbered as subsections (10)
247	through (16), respectively, and new subsections (8) and (9) are

Page 10 of 21

Definitions.—As used in this chapter:

"Improper benefit" means any remuneration or payment,

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

added to that section, to read:

825.101

(8)

by or on behalf	of any service provider or merchant of goods, t	0
any person as an	incentive or inducement to refer customers or	
	or future services or goods.	

- (9) "Kickback" has the same meaning as in s. 456.054(1).

 Section 6. Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (1) of section 825.102, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph (d) is added to that subsection, to read:
- 825.102 Abuse, aggravated abuse, and neglect of an elderly person or disabled adult; penalties.—
 - (1) "Abuse of an elderly person or disabled adult" means:
- (b) An intentional act that could reasonably be expected to result in physical or psychological injury to an elderly person or disabled adult; $\frac{\partial \mathbf{r}}{\partial \mathbf{r}}$
- (c) Active encouragement of any person to commit an act that results or could reasonably be expected to result in physical or psychological injury to an elderly person or disabled adult; or
- (d) Intentionally, and without lawful authority, isolating or restricting access of an elderly person or a disabled adult to family members for any length of time which could reasonably be expected to result in physical or psychological injury to the elderly person or disabled adult, or with the intent to promote, facilitate, conceal, or disguise some form of criminal activity involving the person or property of the elderly person or disabled adult. It is a defense to a violation of this paragraph

Page 11 of 21

that the defendant had reasonable cause to believe that his or her action was necessary to protect the elderly person or disabled adult from danger to his or her welfare.

A person who knowingly or willfully abuses an elderly person or disabled adult without causing great bodily harm, permanent disability, or permanent disfigurement to the elderly person or disabled adult commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

Section 7. Paragraphs (c), (d), and (e) of subsection (1) of section 825.103, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph (f) is added to that subsection, to read:

825.103 Exploitation of an elderly person or disabled adult; penalties.—

- (1) "Exploitation of an elderly person or disabled adult" means:
- (c) Breach of a fiduciary duty to an elderly person or disabled adult by the person's guardian, trustee who is an individual, or agent under a power of attorney which results in an unauthorized appropriation, sale, or transfer of property, kickback, or receipt of an improper benefit. An unauthorized appropriation under this paragraph occurs when the elderly person or disabled adult does not receive the reasonably equivalent financial value in goods or services, or when the fiduciary violates any of these duties:

Page 12 of 21

2021

301	1. For agents appointed under chapter 709:
302	a. Committing fraud in obtaining their appointments;
303	b. Obtaining appointments with the purpose and design of
304	benefiting someone other than the principal or beneficiary;
305	<u>c.b.</u> Abusing their powers;
306	$\underline{\text{d.e.}}$ Wasting, embezzling, or intentionally mismanaging the
307	assets of the principal or beneficiary; or
308	$\underline{\text{e.d.}}$ Acting contrary to the principal's sole benefit or
309	best interest; or
310	2. For guardians and trustees who are individuals and who
311	are appointed under chapter 736 or chapter 744:
312	a. Committing fraud in obtaining their appointments;
313	b. Obtaining appointments with the purpose and design of
314	benefiting someone other than the principal or beneficiary;
315	c.b. Abusing their powers; or
316	$\underline{\text{d.e.}}$ Wasting, embezzling, or intentionally mismanaging the
317	assets of the ward or beneficiary of the trust;
318	(d) Misappropriating, misusing, or transferring without
319	authorization money belonging to an elderly person or disabled
320	adult from an account in which the elderly person or disabled
321	adult placed the funds, owned the funds, and was the sole
322	contributor or payee of the funds before the misappropriation,
323	misuse, or unauthorized transfer. This paragraph only applies to
324	the following types of accounts:

Page 13 of 21

Personal accounts;

- 2. Joint accounts created with the intent that only the elderly person or disabled adult enjoys all rights, interests, and claims to moneys deposited into such account; or
- 3. Convenience accounts created in accordance with s. $655.80; \frac{\text{or}}{\text{or}}$
- (e) Intentionally or negligently failing to effectively use an elderly person's or disabled adult's income and assets for the necessities required for that person's support and maintenance, by a caregiver or a person who stands in a position of trust and confidence with the elderly person or disabled adult; or
- (f) Knowingly obtaining or using, endeavoring to obtain or use, or conspiring with another to obtain or use an elderly person's or a disabled adult's funds, assets, property, or estate through intentional modification, alteration, or fraudulent creation of a plan of distribution or disbursement expressed in a will, trust agreement, or other testamentary devise of the elderly person or disabled adult without:
- 1. A court order, from a court having jurisdiction over the elderly person or disabled adult, which authorizes the modification or alteration;
- 2. A written instrument executed by the elderly person or disabled adult, sworn to and witnessed by two persons who would be competent as witnesses to a will, which authorizes the modification or alteration; or

Page 14 of 21

352

353354

355

356

357

358

359

360

361

362

363

364

365

366

367

368

369

370

371

372

373

374

375

3	. Acti	ion of	an age	nt unde	er a	valid j	power	of attorne	<u>:</u> У	
execute	ed by t	the el	derly p	erson (or di	sabled	adult	which		
authorizes the modification or alteration.										
Se	ection	8. F	aragrap	h (a) d	of su	bsecti	on (2)	, paragrap	h	

- Section 8. Paragraph (a) of subsection (2), paragraph (a) of subsection (3), and paragraph (d) of subsection (5) of section 825.1035, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:
- 825.1035 Injunction for protection against exploitation of a vulnerable adult.—
 - (2) WHO MAY FILE; VENUE; RECORDING.-
- (a) The cause of action may be sought in an adversary proceeding by:
- A vulnerable adult in imminent danger of being exploited;
- 2. The guardian of a vulnerable adult in imminent danger of being exploited;
- 3. A person or organization acting on behalf of the vulnerable adult with the consent of the vulnerable adult or his or her guardian; or
- 4. An agent under a valid durable power of attorney with the authority specifically granted in the power of attorney; or
- $\underline{5.4.}$ A person who simultaneously files a petition for determination of incapacity and appointment of an emergency temporary guardian with respect to the vulnerable adult.
 - (3) FORM OF PETITION.—
 - (a) A sworn petition filed under this section must allege

Page 15 of 21

the existence of exploitation, or the imminent exploitation, of 376 377 the vulnerable adult and must include the specific facts and 378 circumstances for which relief is sought. The sworn petition 379 must be in substantially the following form: 380 381 PETITION FOR INJUNCTION FOR PROTECTION 382 AGAINST EXPLOITATION OF A VULNERABLE ADULT 383 384 Before me, the undersigned authority, personally appeared 385 Petitioner ... (Name) ..., who has been sworn and says that the 386 following statements are true: 387 1. The petitioner's name is: 2. The petitioner's address is: 388 389 3. The petitioner's relationship to the vulnerable adult 390 is: 391 4. How long has the petitioner known the vulnerable adult: 392 393 5. The vulnerable adult's name is: 394 6. Aliases of the vulnerable adult are: 395 7. The vulnerable adult's date of birth is: 8.1. The vulnerable adult's address is adult resides at: 396 ...(address).... 397 398 9. Does the vulnerable adult have one or more impairments that impact his or her ability to perform normal activities of 399 400 daily living or to provide for his or her own care or

Page 16 of 21

2021

```
401
     protection?
402
          Yes
                     No
403
          If so, what are this person's impairments? (check all that
404
     apply)
405
          .... Long-term physical disability
406
          .... Sensory disability (e.g., hearing or vision impaired)
407
          .... Cognitive disability
408
          .... Mental or emotional disability
409
          .... Developmental disability
410
          .... Infirmity of aging
411
          .... Other (explain)
412
          10.2. The respondent's last known address is respondent
413
                                 ...(last known address)....
     resides at:
          11.3. The respondent's last known place of employment is:
414
415
     ... (name of business and address) ....
416
          12.4. Physical description of the respondent: ....
417
          Race....
418
          Sex...
419
          Date of birth....
420
          Height....
421
          Weight....
422
          Eve color....
423
          Hair color....
424
          Distinguishing marks or scars....
425
          13.5. Aliases of the respondent: ....
```

Page 17 of 21

426 14.6. The respondent is associated with the vulnerable 427 adult as follows: 428 15.7. The following describes any other cause of action 429 currently pending between the petitioner and the respondent, any 430 proceeding under chapter 744 concerning the vulnerable adult, 431 and any previous or pending attempts by the petitioner to obtain 432 an injunction for protection against exploitation of the 433 vulnerable adult in this or any other circuit; related case 434 numbers, if available; and the results of any such 435 attempts:..... 436 437 16.8. The following describes the petitioner's knowledge 438 of any reports made to a government agency, including, but not 439 limited to, the Department of Elderly Affairs, the Department of 440 Children and Families, and the adult protective services program relating to the abuse, neglect, or exploitation of the 441 442 vulnerable adult; any investigations performed by a government 443 agency relating to abuse, neglect, or exploitation of the 444 vulnerable adult; and the results of any such reports or 445 investigations: 446 17.9. The petitioner knows the vulnerable adult is either a victim of exploitation or the petitioner has reasonable cause 447 to believe the vulnerable adult is, or is in imminent danger of 448 becoming, a victim of exploitation because the respondent has: 449

Page 18 of 21

... (describe in the spaces below the incidents or threats of

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

```
451
     exploitation) ....
452
           18.<del>10.</del> The following describes the petitioner's knowledge
453
     of the vulnerable adult's dependence on the respondent for care;
454
     alternative provisions for the vulnerable adult's care in the
455
     absence of the respondent, if necessary; available resources the
456
     vulnerable adult has to access such alternative provisions; and
457
     the vulnerable adult's willingness to use such alternative
458
     provisions: ....
459
           19.<del>11.</del> The petitioner knows the vulnerable adult maintains
460
     assets, accounts, or lines of credit at the following financial
461
     institution(s): ...(list name, address, and account number of
462
     each)....
463
           20.<del>12.</del> The petitioner believes that the vulnerable adult's
464
     assets to be frozen are: ... (mark one) ....
465
           ....Worth less than $1500;
           ....Worth between $1500 and $5000; or
466
467
           ....Worth more than $5000.
           21.13. The petitioner genuinely fears imminent
468
469
     exploitation of the vulnerable adult by the respondent.
470
           22.<del>14.</del> The petitioner seeks an injunction for the
471
     protection of the vulnerable adult, including: ... (mark
472
     appropriate section or sections) ....
           ....Prohibiting the respondent from having any direct or
473
     indirect contact with the vulnerable adult.
474
           .... Immediately restraining the respondent from committing
475
```

Page 19 of 21

any acts of exploitation against the vulnerable adult. 476 477 Freezing the assets of the vulnerable adult held at 478 ... (name and address of depository or financial institution)... 479 even if titled jointly with the respondent, or in the 480 respondent's name only, in the court's discretion. 481Freezing the credit lines of the vulnerable adult at 482 ... (name and address of financial institution) ... even if 483 jointly with the respondent, in the court's discretion.Providing any terms the court deems necessary for the 484 protection of the vulnerable adult or his or her assets, 485 486 including any injunctions or directives to law enforcement 487 agencies. 488 23.15. Should the court enter an injunction freezing 489 assets and credit lines, the petitioner believes that the 490 critical expenses of the vulnerable adult will be paid for or 491 provided by the following persons or entities, or the petitioner 492 requests that the following expenses be paid notwithstanding the 493 freeze: ... (for each expense, list the name of the payee, address, account number if known, amount, and a brief 494 495 explanation of why payment is critical).... 496 (5) TEMPORARY INJUNCTION; SERVICE; HEARING.-497 An ex parte temporary injunction may be effective for a fixed period not to exceed 15 days unless good cause is shown 498 499 to extend the injunction. The ex parte temporary injunction may be extended one time for up to an additional 30 days. A full

Page 20 of 21

CODING: Words stricken are deletions; words underlined are additions.

501

502

503

504

505

506

507

508

2021

hearing, as provided by this section, must be set for a date no later than the date when the <u>ex parte</u> temporary injunction ceases to be effective. The court may grant a continuance of the hearing, before or during the hearing, for good cause shown by any party, which good cause may include a continuance to obtain service of process. An ex parte injunction is not extended beyond the initial 15 days as a result of a continuance.

Section 9. This act shall take effect July 1, 2021.

Page 21 of 21