

BILL SUMMARY
1st Session of the 52nd Legislature

Bill No.:	HB 1627
Version:	Proposed Committee Substitute
Author:	Rep. Pittman
Date:	February 16, 2009
Impact:	Unknown

Bill Summary

Research Analyst: Marcia Goff

The measure requires a person who has reason to believe that a vulnerable adult is being abused, neglected or exploited to report it to both the Department of Human Services (DHS) and local law enforcement and to preserve any evidence of the abuse or neglect. The bill also requires a nursing facility to notify local law enforcement, in addition to DHS, if certain serious incidents occur in the facility and requires the administrator of the facility to preserve the scene in which any alleged criminal act took place. If sexual assault is suspected, the measure directs that the administrator arrange for sexual assault examination.

Fiscal Summary

Fiscal Analyst: David Ligon

House Bill 1627 adds language requiring a person who suspects abuse, neglect or exploitation to report it to the police department, as well as the Department of Human Services (DHS), and that the person must preserve any evidence. A facility responsible for reporting serious incidents listed in the law must now report the incidents to local law enforcement, as well as DHS, within twenty-four hours and a missing person within two hours.

Fiscal Analysis

The law currently requires a person to report abuse, neglect or exploitation to DHS or law enforcement and only requires a facility to report a missing person and situations involving criminal intent to law enforcement and DHS.

In 2008, Adult Protective Services completed investigations of 17,113 allegations at a cost of \$1,067,323.45 in FY 2008. Total confirmed reports of abuse, neglect or exploitation in FY 2008 was 10,315. According to DHS, based on the language in the committee substitute of HB 1627 it is unknown whether the number of referrals to DHS Adult Protective Services would increase beyond the levels currently experienced.

Long Term Fiscal Considerations

None

Fiscal Analysis Reviewed By:



House Fiscal Director

