

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 22, 2004

SENATE BILL

No. 1305

Introduced by Senator Vasconcellos

February 17, 2004

An act *to add Sections 68519 and 68556 to the Government Code, relating to elder abuse.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1305, as amended, Vasconcellos. Elder and dependent adult abuse.

Existing law provides various civil and criminal remedies for elder and dependent adult abuse, as specified.

~~This bill would declare the intent of the Legislature for the Judicial Council to establish a unit within the Administrative Office of the Courts, to the extent it can be done within its current resources, to assess the treatment of elder and dependent adult abuse cases in the courts~~ *require the Judicial Council, to the extent resources are available, to establish within the Administrative Office of the Courts a unit to assess the treatment of elder and dependent adult abuse cases in the courts, and to devise administrative and educational strategies for improving the handling and coordination of these cases in California's civil and criminal courts. The bill would require the Judicial Council to pursue any appropriate available grant funding to support activities relating to the enhancement of the ability of the courts to handle elder and dependent adult abuse cases.*

The bill would also require the Judicial Council, to the extent resources are available, to incorporate elder and dependent adult abuse issues into its existing educational programs for judicial officers, court staff, and other public offices and public entities, as specified. The bill

would require the Judicial Council to report to the Legislature by December 15, 2005, and annually thereafter, on its progress under the bill.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: ~~no~~ yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 ~~SECTION 1. It is the intent of the Legislature to enhance the~~
2 *SECTION 1. Section 68519 is added to the Government Code,*
3 *to read:*
4 *68519. To the extent resources are available, the Judicial*
5 *Council shall establish, within the Administrative Office of the*
6 *Courts, a unit to assess the treatment of elder and dependent adult*
7 *abuse cases in the courts, and to devise administrative and*
8 *educational strategies for improving the handling and*
9 *coordination of these cases in California's civil and criminal*
10 *courts. The Judicial Council shall pursue any appropriate*
11 *available grant funding to support activities relating to the*
12 *enhancement of the ability of the courts to handle elder and*
13 *dependent adult abuse cases.*
14 *SEC. 2. Section 68556 is added to the Government Code, to*
15 *read:*
16 *68556. The Judicial Council shall, to the extent resources are*
17 *available, incorporate elder and dependent adult abuse issues into*
18 *its existing educational programs for judicial officers, court staff,*
19 *and other public officers and public entities including, but not*
20 *limited to, conservators, public guardians, district attorneys, law*
21 *enforcement, and adult protective service staff. The Judicial*
22 *Council shall report to the Legislature by December 15, 2005, and*
23 *annually thereafter, on its progress under Section 68519 and this*
24 *section.*
25 ~~ability of the courts in California to handle elder and dependent~~
26 ~~adult abuse cases. Because these cases present unique challenges~~
27 ~~for the court system, it is the intent of the Legislature that the~~
28 ~~Judicial Council establish, within the Administrative Office of the~~
29 ~~Courts, a unit to assess the treatment of elder and dependent adult~~
30 ~~abuse cases in the courts, and to devise administrative and~~
31 ~~educational strategies for improving the handling and~~
32 ~~coordination of these cases in California's civil and criminal~~



1 ~~courts. It is the intent of the Legislature that the Administrative~~
2 ~~Office of the Courts undertake only those activities that can be~~
3 ~~accomplished within its current resources, and that it develop~~
4 ~~proposals for program expansion should additional resources~~
5 ~~become available.~~

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