

Senate File 244 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 244

BY RAGAN and BOLKCOM

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to a study concerning a comprehensive approach
2 to detecting, managing, and preventing elder abuse.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. ELDER ABUSE STUDY — DEPARTMENT ON AGING. The
2 department on aging shall conduct an elder abuse study in
3 collaboration with representatives from the department on
4 aging, the department of human services, the department of
5 inspections and appeals, the department of public safety,
6 the department of corrections, the division of insurance of
7 the department of commerce, the department of justice, AARP
8 Iowa, the older Iowans legislature, and other stakeholders as
9 deemed appropriate by the department on aging to study issues
10 and develop policy recommendations concerning a comprehensive
11 approach to the detection, management, and prevention of elder
12 abuse. Specifically, the representatives shall examine all of
13 the following issues:

14 1. The protection of Iowans sixty years of age and older
15 against all of the recognized categories of abuse as outlined
16 by the national center on elder abuse including the categories
17 of physical abuse, emotional or psychological abuse, sexual
18 abuse, financial or material exploitation, abandonment,
19 neglect, and self-neglect.

20 2. Definitions of mandatory reporters of elder abuse,
21 including employees and officers of financial institutions and
22 other persons who stand in positions of trust with elders.

23 3. Civil and criminal penalties for perpetrators of elder
24 abuse.

25 4. The availability of legal and financial assistance for
26 victims of elder abuse.

27 5. Educational and training requirements for medical staff,
28 investigators, and other persons to aid in the detection,
29 management, and prevention of elder abuse.

30 6. The establishment of a central registry of persons who
31 have committed elder abuse.

32 7. Access to information necessary to maximize assistance
33 to victims of elder abuse while protecting the privacy of
34 victims.

35 8. The utilization of multidisciplinary teams throughout

1 Iowa, coordinated by the department on aging, that aid in the
2 detection, management, and prevention of elder abuse.

3 9. The utilization of special elder abuse investigators
4 by all agencies involved with the detection, management, and
5 prevention of elder abuse.

6 10. Existing laws regarding the various aspects of elder
7 abuse.

8 The study group shall submit a report, including findings
9 and recommendations, to the general assembly by December 15,
10 2019.

11

EXPLANATION

12 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
13 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

14 This bill requires the department on aging to conduct an
15 elder abuse study with representatives from the department
16 on aging, the department of human services, the department
17 of inspections and appeals, the department of public safety,
18 the department of corrections, the division of insurance of
19 the department of commerce, the department of justice, AARP
20 Iowa, the older Iowans legislature, and other stakeholders as
21 deemed appropriate by the department on aging to study issues
22 and develop policy recommendations relating to the detection,
23 management, and prevention of elder abuse. The study group
24 shall examine issues relating to the protection of Iowans 60
25 years of age and older against all of the recognized categories
26 of abuse as outlined by the national center on elder abuse;
27 the definition of mandatory reporters of elder abuse; civil
28 and criminal penalties for perpetrators of elder abuse; the
29 availability of legal and financial assistance for victims
30 of elder abuse; educational and training requirements for
31 medical staff, investigators, and others; the establishment of
32 a central registry of persons who have committed elder abuse;
33 access to information necessary to maximize assistance to elder
34 abuse victims while protecting victim privacy; the use of
35 multidisciplinary teams that aid in the detection, management,

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1 and prevention of elder abuse; the utilization of special elder
2 abuse investigators; and existing laws regarding elder abuse.

3 A report on the findings and recommendations of the study
4 group shall be submitted to the general assembly by December
5 15, 2019.