

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 971

97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR KEHOE.

Read 1st time February 27, 2014, and ordered printed.

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

6138S.02I

AN ACT

To repeal section 198.070, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to sexual assault reporting, with existing penalty provisions.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 198.070, RSMo, is repealed and one new section
2 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 198.070, to read as follows:

198.070. 1. When any adult day care worker; chiropractor; Christian
2 Science practitioner; coroner; dentist; embalmer; employee of the departments of
3 social services, mental health, or health and senior services; employee of a local
4 area agency on aging or an organized area agency on aging program; funeral
5 director; home health agency or home health agency employee; hospital and clinic
6 personnel engaged in examination, care, or treatment of persons; in-home services
7 owner, provider, operator, or employee; law enforcement officer; long-term care
8 facility administrator or employee; medical examiner; medical resident or intern;
9 mental health professional; minister; nurse; nurse practitioner; optometrist; other
10 health practitioner; peace officer; pharmacist; physical therapist; physician;
11 physician's assistant; podiatrist; probation or parole officer; psychologist; social
12 worker; or other person with the care of a person sixty years of age or older or an
13 eligible adult has reasonable cause to believe that a resident of a facility has been
14 abused or neglected, he or she shall immediately report or cause a report to be
15 made to the department.

16 2. (1) The report shall contain the name and address of the facility, the
17 name of the resident, information regarding the nature of the abuse or neglect,
18 the name of the complainant, and any other information which might be helpful
19 in an investigation.

20 (2) In the event of suspected sexual assault of the resident, in

21 **addition to the report to be made to the department, a report shall be**
22 **made under federal law pursuant to the provisions of Sections 6701-**
23 **6703 of the Elder Justice Act of 2009 (42 U.S.C. 1397 et. seq.) to local law**
24 **enforcement.**

25 3. Any person required in subsection 1 of this section to report or cause
26 a report to be made to the department who knowingly fails to make a report
27 within a reasonable time after the act of abuse or neglect as required in this
28 subsection is guilty of a class A misdemeanor.

29 4. In addition to the penalties imposed by this section, any administrator
30 who knowingly conceals any act of abuse or neglect resulting in death or serious
31 physical injury, as defined in section 565.002, is guilty of a class D felony.

32 5. In addition to those persons required to report pursuant to subsection
33 1 of this section, any other person having reasonable cause to believe that a
34 resident has been abused or neglected may report such information to the
35 department.

36 6. Upon receipt of a report, the department shall initiate an investigation
37 within twenty-four hours and, as soon as possible during the course of the
38 investigation, shall notify the resident's next of kin or responsible party of the
39 report and the investigation and further notify them whether the report was
40 substantiated or unsubstantiated unless such person is the alleged perpetrator
41 of the abuse or neglect. As provided in section 565.186, substantiated reports of
42 elder abuse shall be promptly reported by the department to the appropriate law
43 enforcement agency and prosecutor.

44 7. If the investigation indicates possible abuse or neglect of a resident, the
45 investigator shall refer the complaint together with the investigator's report to
46 the department director or the director's designee for appropriate action. If,
47 during the investigation or at its completion, the department has reasonable
48 cause to believe that immediate removal is necessary to protect the resident from
49 abuse or neglect, the department or the local prosecuting attorney may, or the
50 attorney general upon request of the department shall, file a petition for
51 temporary care and protection of the resident in a circuit court of competent
52 jurisdiction. The circuit court in which the petition is filed shall have equitable
53 jurisdiction to issue an ex parte order granting the department authority for the
54 temporary care and protection of the resident, for a period not to exceed thirty
55 days.

56 8. Reports shall be confidential, as provided pursuant to section 660.320.

57 9. Anyone, except any person who has abused or neglected a resident in
58 a facility, who makes a report pursuant to this section or who testifies in any
59 administrative or judicial proceeding arising from the report shall be immune
60 from any civil or criminal liability for making such a report or for testifying
61 except for liability for perjury, unless such person acted negligently, recklessly,
62 in bad faith or with malicious purpose. It is a crime pursuant to section 565.186
63 and 565.188 for any person to purposely file a false report of elder abuse or
64 neglect.

65 10. Within five working days after a report required to be made pursuant
66 to this section is received, the person making the report shall be notified in
67 writing of its receipt and of the initiation of the investigation.

68 11. No person who directs or exercises any authority in a facility shall
69 evict, harass, dismiss or retaliate against a resident or employee because such
70 resident or employee or any member of such resident's or employee's family has
71 made a report of any violation or suspected violation of laws, ordinances or
72 regulations applying to the facility which the resident, the resident's family or an
73 employee has reasonable cause to believe has been committed or has
74 occurred. Through the existing department information and referral telephone
75 contact line, residents, their families and employees of a facility shall be able to
76 obtain information about their rights, protections and options in cases of eviction,
77 harassment, dismissal or retaliation due to a report being made pursuant to this
78 section.

79 12. Any person who abuses or neglects a resident of a facility is subject
80 to criminal prosecution under section 565.180, 565.182, or 565.184.

81 13. The department shall maintain the employee disqualification list and
82 place on the employee disqualification list the names of any persons who are or
83 have been employed in any facility and who have been finally determined by the
84 department pursuant to section 660.315 to have knowingly or recklessly abused
85 or neglected a resident. For purposes of this section only, "knowingly" and
86 "recklessly" shall have the meanings that are ascribed to them in this section. A
87 person acts "knowingly" with respect to the person's conduct when a reasonable
88 person should be aware of the result caused by his or her conduct. A person acts
89 "recklessly" when the person consciously disregards a substantial and
90 unjustifiable risk that the person's conduct will result in serious physical injury
91 and such disregard constitutes a gross deviation from the standard of care that
92 a reasonable person would exercise in the situation.

93 14. The timely self-reporting of incidents to the central registry by a
94 facility shall continue to be investigated in accordance with department policy,
95 and shall not be counted or reported by the department as a hot-line call but
96 rather a self-reported incident. If the self-reported incident results in a
97 regulatory violation, such incident shall be reported as a substantiated report.

✓

Unofficial

Bill

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