



March 17, 2023

SUMMARY OF BILL AS AMENDED (005150): Expands the definition of abuse when referencing domestic abuse or the *Tennessee Adult Protection Act* to include financial abuse. Clarifies that a person is not considered abused or neglected if they intentionally and willfully consent to engage in a religious method of healing, in accordance with a recognized religious belief, in lieu of medical treatment.

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL AS AMENDED:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- Pursuant to the proposed legislation, financial abuse is defined as a behavior that is coercive, deceptive, or unreasonably controls a person's ability to acquire, use, or maintain the economic resources to which they are entitled.
- It is assumed that the potential increase in alleged abuse proceedings can be managed within existing protective services and court resources and personnel; therefore, there will be no significant increase in expenditures to the state government.
- According to Tenn. Code Ann. § 32-11-104(a), a competent adult person may execute a declaration directing the withholding or withdrawal of medical care. The proposed legislation will clarify that the individuals assisting the adult in foregoing the medical care or assisting in the religious method of healing are not committing abuse.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner".

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

/cd