

**Elder Abuse Bills - Update
2011-2012 Michigan Legislature
November 21, 2011**

Eighteen bills designed to prevent vulnerable adult abuse and strengthen existing abuse laws and penalties were recently passed by the Michigan Senate. Fourteen (14) of these bills are now in the House Families, Children and Seniors Committee, and the other four bills are in the House Banking and Financial Services Committee. The bills have to be reported out of these committees, and then be approved by the entire House before they can go to Governor Snyder for his signature. Advocates hope that they will be passed by the Senate, and sent to the House for deliberation and passage before year end. Governor Rick Snyder has stated his support for several of the bills (454-468) in his September health and wellness message.

**Advocates are encouraged to contact their State Representative
and urge them to pass the bills.**

Michigan State Representatives: (517) 373-0135

To read the full text and analyses of each bill, go to www.legislature.mi.gov.

[454](#) – Allows videotape testimony in court

[455](#), [465](#) & [468](#) – Creates stricter penalties and sentencing guidelines for severe financial abuse

[459](#) – Allows stricter penalties for fraudulent signatures and other severe financial abuse

[466](#) – Senior Alert, similar to Amber Alert, coordinates missing-person notification

[456](#), [460](#), [604](#), [605](#) – Financial institutions must provide written summary of joint account holder rights

[457](#) – Counties may establish elder death review team to investigate questionable deaths

[461](#) – Increases safeguards to protect wards from unscrupulous guardians

[462](#) – Nursing home employees can report suspected abuse to Department of Human Services without repercussion from employer

[463](#) – Banks to offer employee training on detecting suspected financial exploitation

[464](#) – Develops state model for coordinated and consistent investigation of alleged vulnerable adult abuse by involved agencies

[467](#) – Creates stricter penalties for severe financial abuse

[706](#) – Prohibits use of unearned or fictitious senior-specific designation or certification by insurance salespersons

[777](#) – Enacts specific life insurance and annuity replacement regulation

In addition, Senate Bill [92](#) which strengthens protections for individuals who sign over their Power of Attorney, has passed the full Senate, was introduced in the House and has been referred to its Judiciary Committee.