

Bill Summary
2nd Session of the 58th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 1163
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Author:	Sen. Garvin
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Bill Analysis

SB 1163 authorizes each district attorney to develop a multidisciplinary team for the investigation and prosecution of crimes committed against the elderly or vulnerable adults in coordination with the District Attorneys Council. The lead agency shall be chosen by each team. The team shall intervene in reports involving sexual abuse, abuse, neglect, or exploitation of an elderly person or vulnerable adult. The team's membership shall be comprised of a mental health professional, law enforcement agents experienced with or trained in elder and vulnerable adult abuse and neglect investigation, medical personnel with relevant experience, coordinators, the district attorney, as well as Adult Protective Services, Office of Client Advocacy, and long-term care workers within the Department of Human Services.

The team shall conduct joint investigations, develop a written protocol for investigations relating to elderly persons or vulnerable adults, collaborate with professionals responsible for the reporting and investigation of such abuse, eliminate duplicative efforts, identify gaps in service, develop expertise through training, and standardize investigative practices. Any investigation, excepting cases in which personnel are not available or the Department of Human Services determines that there is reasonable cause to believe a delay in investigation or interview of a victim could place the victim's health or welfare in danger of harm, shall be conducted according to the protocols outlined in the measure. The measure requires the team to keep records pertaining to elderly victims confidential.

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