

1                   **SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 44**

2 (By Senators Williams, Laird, Unger, Kessler (Mr. President), D.  
3                   Hall, Snyder, Jenkins, McCabe and Stollings)

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7 Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance to study  
8       the safeguarding of older West Virginians against abuse, fraud  
9       and financial exploitation; the strengthening of protection  
10      against such crimes through reviewing and updating state laws;  
11      how other states define financial exploitation and how we may  
12      integrate certain elements of such other states' laws into  
13      West Virginia law; and whether current law provides county  
14      prosecutors with the tools they need to track down and expose  
15      scams having an impact on older West Virginians.

16      Whereas, Research shows that as many as two million older  
17 citizens are abused in the United States, and as a government, as  
18 a society and as individuals, we must increase our efforts to  
19 ensure that all older West Virginians age with dignity and honor;  
20 and

21      Whereas, The majority of exploiters and abusers are strangers,  
22 such as telemarketing scammers going after credit card or Social  
23 Security numbers, paid caregivers or "sweethearts" - con artists  
24 who prey on lonely elderly; after that, it is friends, neighbors or

1 family members; and then it is unscrupulous professionals, such as  
2 accountants, financial planners, bankers, lawyers, physicians and  
3 contractors; and

4       Whereas, The West Virginia Legislature is working to help  
5 safeguard older West Virginians against abuse, fraud and financial  
6 exploitation; and

7       Whereas, The National Center on Elder Abuse and the West  
8 Virginia Financial Exploitation Workgroup works to provide up-to-  
9 date information regarding research, training, best practices, news  
10 and resources on elder abuse, neglect and financial exploitation;  
11 therefore, be it

12       *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

13       That the Joint Committee on Government and Finance is hereby  
14 requested to study the safeguarding of older West Virginians  
15 against abuse, fraud and financial exploitation; the strengthening  
16 of protection against such crimes through reviewing and updating  
17 state laws; how other states define financial exploitation and how  
18 we may integrate certain elements of such other states' laws into  
19 West Virginia law; and whether current law provides county  
20 prosecutors with the tools they need to track down and expose scams  
21 having an impact on older West Virginians; and, be it

22       *Further Resolved,* That the assistance of the National Center  
23 on Elder Abuse and the West Virginia Financial Exploitation  
24 Workgroup be requested in carrying out this study; and, be it

1        *Further Resolved*, That the Joint Committee on Government and  
2 Finance report to the regular session of the Legislature, 2014, on  
3 its findings, conclusions and recommendations, together with drafts  
4 of any legislation necessary to effectuate its recommendations;  
5 and, be it

6        *Further Resolved*, That the expenses necessary to conduct this  
7 study, to prepare a report and to draft necessary legislation be  
8 paid from legislative appropriations to the Joint Committee on  
9 Government and Finance.