

## SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

SENATE BILL NO. 910

AN ACT

To repeal section 565.184, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to the abuse or neglect of certain persons, with penalty provisions.

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

Section A. Section 565.184, RSMo, is repealed and one new section enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 565.184, to read as follows:

565.184. 1. A person commits the offense of abuse of an elderly person, a person with a disability, or a vulnerable person if he or she:

(1) Purposely engages in **[conduct involving]** more than one incident in which purposeful and unreasonable conduct [that] causes emotional distress to an elderly person, a person with a disability, or a vulnerable person. The course of conduct shall be such as a reasonable person would know that such conduct would cause a reasonable elderly person, person with a disability, or vulnerable person to suffer substantial emotional distress; or

(2) Intentionally fails to provide reasonable care, goods, or services to an elderly person, a person with a disability, or a vulnerable person. The result of the conduct shall be such as would cause a reasonable elderly person, person with a disability, or vulnerable person to suffer actual physical or emotional distress; or

(3) Knowingly acts or knowingly fails to act in a manner which results in a **[substantial] grave risk to the life, body, or health of an elderly person, a person with a disability, or a vulnerable person. For the purposes of**

this section, "grave risk" shall mean immediate, serious, or life-threatening situations where an individual faces a high likelihood of death, severe bodily injury, or profound, lasting impairment to their physical or mental health.

2. The offense of abuse of an elderly person, a person with a disability, or a vulnerable person is a class [A misdemeanor] E felony. Nothing in this section shall be construed to mean that an elderly person, a person with a disability, or a vulnerable person is abused solely because such person chooses to rely on spiritual means through prayer, in lieu of medical care, for his or her health care, as evidence by such person's explicit consent, advance directive for health care, or practice.