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# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

Office of Research  
and Drafting

Legislative Budget  
Office

S.B. 319  
136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

## Bill Analysis

**Version:** As Introduced

**Primary Sponsors:** Sens. Hicks-Hudson and Wilson

Jason Hoskins, Attorney

### SUMMARY

- Authorizes a county department of job and family services, or its designee, to receive and investigate reports alleging that an adult who does not live independently is being exploited by an individual other than someone who provides services at the facility in which the adult resides.
- Requires the county department or designee to provide protective services to the adult if an investigation determines that protective services are necessary.

### DETAILED ANALYSIS

#### Reporting and investigation of exploitation

Under continuing law, each county department of job and family services or its designee is required to investigate reports of exploitation of an individual who (1) is 60 years of age or older, (2) is either disabled by the infirmities of aging or has a physical or mental impairment that prevents the individual from providing for their own care or protection, and (3) resides in an independent living arrangement. An independent living arrangement is a domicile of the individual's choosing, but, in general, excludes any facility licensed by the state.<sup>1</sup>

The bill authorizes a county department or its designee to receive and investigate reports alleging that an individual who meets the first two criteria above, but does not reside in an independent living arrangement, is being exploited. The bill does not apply to reports of exploitation by a person used by the long-term care facility or residential care facility where the individual resides to provide services; those reports are handled by the Department of Health.<sup>2</sup> The bill requires that if a county department or its designee undertakes an investigation as

<sup>1</sup> R.C. 5101.60, 5101.63, and 5101.65, not in the bill.

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 5101.72(B).

described above and determines that the individual who is the subject of the investigation is in need of protective services, the county department or designee must provide protective services in accordance with continuing law unchanged by the bill.<sup>3</sup> The bill also specifies that the authority of a county department under the bill is in addition to the authority and duties of the long-term care ombudsman program, which advocates for individuals receiving long-term care under continuing law.<sup>4</sup>

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## HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	11-05-25

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<sup>3</sup> R.C. 5101.72(C).

<sup>4</sup> R.C. 5101.72(D); R.C. 173.15 to 173.28, not in the bill.