



# *ENACTMENT NEWS*

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## **Senate Bill 158** **Elder fraud penalties**

On December 19, 2019, Governor Kasich signed Senate Bill 158 (Sen. Steve Wilson) into law. The bill establishes enhanced penalties for people who commit certain fraud offenses against an elderly person. The Ohio Senate passed the bill on March 21, 2018 by a unanimous vote, and the House similarly passed the bill unanimously on December 6, 2018. It takes effect 90 days after receiving the governor's signature.

The bill requires a person who commits any of the following offenses against a victim who is an elderly person<sup>1</sup> to, in addition to any other penalty imposed for the offense, pay full restitution to the victim and to pay a fine of up to \$50,000:

- Theft (2913.02)
- Misuse of credit cards (2913.21)
- Forgery (2913.31)
- Securing writings by deception (2913.43)
- Identity fraud (2913.49)

The bill further provides that revenue from the newly created fine of up to \$50,000 is to be forwarded, by the clerk of court, to the county Department of Job and Family Services to be used for the reporting and investigation of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, or for providing or arranging protective services.

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<sup>1</sup> Existing law defines an "elderly person" as someone who is 65 or older.