

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2025**

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**HOUSE BILL 1131**

Short Title: More APS Staff to Address Elder Abuse. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Price and Buansi (Primary Sponsors).

*For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*

Referred to: Appropriations, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

May 4, 2026

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN  
3 SERVICES, DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES, TO FUND ADDITIONAL ADULT  
4 PROTECTIVE SERVICES WORKERS AT COUNTY DEPARTMENTS OF SOCIAL  
5 SERVICES TO INVESTIGATE AN INCREASING VOLUME OF ELDER ABUSE  
6 REPORTS.

7 Whereas, Article 6 of Chapter 108A of the General Statutes mandates county  
8 departments of social services to evaluate reports of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older  
9 adults through a system of protective services known as Adult Protective Services (APS); and

10 Whereas, reports of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older adults may include all  
11 forms of abuse such as physical, sexual, emotional, mental, passive neglect, and financial  
12 exploitation, and may include acts of confinement and willful deprivation; and

13 Whereas, the federal Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) provides 21% of the  
14 funding for APS staff at county departments of social services, and the counties provide the  
15 remaining 79%; and

16 Whereas, in North Carolina, the State does not allocate State funds for Adult  
17 Protective Services; and

18 Whereas, according to the National Council on Aging, pre-pandemic sources  
19 estimated approximately one in 10 Americans 60 years of age or older have experienced some  
20 form of elder abuse, and a more recent study found that one in five older adults reported elder  
21 abuse during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

22 Whereas, in county departments of social services with APS units, SSBG funds  
23 earmarked for APS are often depleted by mid-year, if not earlier; and

24 Whereas, with the growth in the older adult population, county departments of social  
25 services' APS staff are overwhelmed by the increased demand in elder abuse cases; and

26 Whereas, while the population increase of those 60 years of age or older contributes  
27 to the increased number of APS reports, analysis shows that the number of abuse reports per  
28 capita has increased as well; and

29 Whereas, North Carolina counties report the need for additional APS staff; Now,  
30 therefore,

31 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

32 **SECTION 1.(a)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
33 Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services, the sum of two million one hundred  
34 seventy-eight thousand dollars (\$2,178,000) in recurring funds beginning in the 2026-2027 fiscal  
35 year to be used to increase the number of full-time Adult Protective Services (APS) workers



1 statewide by at least 25 for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. Funds authorized by this section for the  
2 allocation of 25 additional APS workers shall be distributed to county departments of social  
3 services based on the greatest need for additional APS workers, as determined by the Division of  
4 Social Services. In determining the counties with the greatest need for additional APS workers,  
5 the Division of Social Services, in consultation with the North Carolina Association of County  
6 Directors of Social Services, shall consider the following factors: (i) the total number of APS  
7 cases within the county; (ii) the number of APS workers required to adequately assess and  
8 evaluate the APS cases in the county; (iii) the population of individuals 65 years of age or older  
9 residing in the county; and (iv) the volume of reports related to abuse, neglect, and exploitation  
10 of older adults within each county.

11           **SECTION 1.(b)** County departments of social services that are the recipients of these  
12 allocated funds shall not use these funds (i) for any purpose other than to pay for salaries, benefits,  
13 and related expenses associated with the additional APS workers or (ii) to supplant any other  
14 source of funding for staff.

15           **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2026.