

# One Hundred Fourth Legislature - Second Session - 2016

## Introducer's Statement of Intent

### LB1006

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**Chairperson: Senator Heath Mello**

**Committee: Appropriations**

**Date of Hearing: February 05, 2016**

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB1006 is a bill to appropriate \$250,000 annually to the Office of the Attorney General for the purpose of hiring one or more forensic accountants or other staff or resources needed to investigate cases of financial exploitation of vulnerable adults.

There is an alarming increase in the number of cases of financial exploitation and there is a lack of resources to investigate and prosecute those cases. While our state and nation face an aging population, the need to prosecute financial exploitation is greater than ever, and providing more resources to fight these crimes is imperative.

Financial exploitation cases are extremely time consuming. It is very difficult for law enforcement and Adult Protective Services to obtain financial records from banks. This time constraint often hinders investigations and APS is not equipped with the appropriate staff to dedicate themselves to all the financial exploitation cases that they encounter.

Forensic accountants are experienced auditors, accountants, and investigators of legal and financial documents that are hired to look into possible suspicions of fraudulent activity.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

Senator Colby Coash