



# ARIZONA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Fifty-fifth Legislature  
Second Regular Session

House: HHS DP 9-0-0-0

---

## **HB 2397: emotional abuse; vulnerable adults**

**Sponsor: Representative Dunn, LD 13**

**Caucus & COW**

### **Overview**

Expands the definition of *abuse* to include emotional abuse and defines *emotional abuse*.

### **History**

In 2019, the Speaker of the House of Representatives established the House Ad Hoc Committee on Abuse and Neglect of Vulnerable Adults (Committee). The purpose of the Committee was to review and identify best practices for the reporting and investigative processes to ensure the safety of vulnerable adults. One of the recommendations in the Committee's [final report](#) was to create a statutory definition of *emotional abuse* in Title 46 of the Arizona Revised Statutes.

*Abuse* is currently defined as: 1) intentional infliction of physical harm; 2) injury caused by negligent acts or omissions; 3) unreasonable confinement; or 4) sexual abuse or sexual assault ([A.R.S. § 46-451](#)).

### **Provisions**

1. Adds *emotional abuse* to the definition of *abuse*. (Sec. 1)
2. Defines *emotional abuse* as a pattern of ridiculing or demeaning a vulnerable adult, making derogatory remarks to a vulnerable adult, verbally harassing a vulnerable adult or threatening to inflict physical or emotional harm on a vulnerable adult. (Sec. 1)
3. Makes conforming changes. (Sec. 1)

<input type="checkbox"/> Prop 105 (45 votes)	<input type="checkbox"/> Prop 108 (40 votes)	<input type="checkbox"/> Emergency (40 votes)	<input type="checkbox"/> Fiscal Note
--	--	---	--------------------------------------