

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Article 1

Article 1 creates a Human Trafficking Task Force to develop and carry out a plan to address and prevent trafficking in Minnesota. The plan must include training, awareness, and victims' assistance initiatives.

1 Statewide Human Trafficking Assessment.

Subd. 1. Applies the human trafficking definitions enacted last year to new sections added in this bill.

Subd. 2. Expands the general duties of the commissioner of the department of public safety with respect to this article. The commissioner's duties include (1) cooperating with authorities to collect, share, and compile trafficking data; (2) analyzing the data and developing a plan to address and prevent trafficking; and (3) establishing policies to enable agencies and organizations to work together to provide assistance to trafficking victims.

Subd. 3. Authorizes the commissioner to contract for outside services.

[Effective date: July 1, 2006]

2 Trafficking study; analysis and use of data. Directs the commissioner to develop and carry out a plan to address and prevent trafficking in Minnesota. The plan must include

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training initiatives for law enforcement, prosecutors, and other agencies, as well as awareness initiatives for victims and the public. The commissioner must evaluate the initiatives annually. [Effective date: July 1, 2006]

- 3** **Trafficking Victim Assistance.** Directs the commissioner to establish policies that will enable state government to work with nongovernmental organizations in providing assistance to trafficking victims with medical services, housing, job training, legal services, interpreting services and victim services.

[Effective date: July 1, 2006]

- 4** **Human Trafficking Task Force; Coordinator.** Creates the Human Trafficking Task Force. The 22-member task force shall advise and assist the commissioner in carrying out the duties set forth in Article 1. The committee shall consist of representatives who are knowledgeable in trafficking, crime victims' rights, or violence prevention. The committee shall meet at least quarterly. The task force expires on June 30, 2011, or once it has implemented and evaluated the programs and policies set forth in Article 1.

The commissioner shall appoint a statewide trafficking coordinator to assist the commissioner in fulfilling the duties set forth in Article 1. [Effective date: July 1, 2006]

- 5** **Appropriation.** Appropriates \$200,000 in FY07 from the general fund to be used by the commissioner of public safety in carrying out the commissioner's duties in Article 1. The base appropriation is \$200,000 in FY08 and \$150,000 thereafter until the task force expires. [Effective date: July 1, 2006]

Article 2

Article 2 increases the penalties for trafficking crimes involving victims under the age of 18.

- 1** **Labor Trafficking.** Creates a 20-year felony for the crime of engaging in the labor trafficking of an individual who is under the age of 18. Other labor trafficking offenses carry a 15-year felony.

[Effective date: August 1, 2006, and applies to crimes committed on or after that date]

- 2** **Unlawful conduct with respect to documents in furtherance of labor or sex trafficking.** Creates a new 10-year felony for the crime of unlawful conduct with respect to documents in furtherance of labor or sex trafficking. The 10-year felony applies if the crime involved a victim under the age of 18. Other offenses carry a 5-year felony.

[Effective date: August 1, 2006, and applies to crimes committed on or after that date]