

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 1636
Version: As introduced

DATE: March 19, 2009

Authors: Clark

Subject: Human trafficking; victim assistance

Analyst: Rebecca Pirius, 651-296-5044

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd.

Overview

This bill expands on current law and directs the commissioner of public safety to develop trafficking victim assistance plans. It also creates a new grant program for human trafficking victim service programs.

Section

1 **Trafficking victim assistance.** Directs the commissioner of public safety to develop plans, in consultation with nongovernmental organizations, for the provision of services to human trafficking victims and their families, including: housing, psychological counseling, medical assistance, child care, employment and training assistance, and other material assistance. Requires the plans to be submitted for approval by appropriate state authorities, which shall also undertake periodic reviews of the plans.

2 **Programs for trafficked persons.**

Subd. 1. Grants awarded. Authorizes the commissioner of public safety to make grants to local governments, Indian tribes, and nonprofit nongovernmental victims' service organizations to develop, expand, or strengthen human trafficking victim service programs. Provides that grants must be awarded to carry out the purposes of section 299A.79 (training and public awareness) and section 1 (trafficking victim assistance).

Subd. 2. Programs for American Indians. Requires the commissioner of public safety to establish at least one program to provide emergency shelter services, transitional and permanent housing, and support services to trafficked American Indians.

Subd. 3. Application. Provides that a public or private nonprofit agency may apply for a grant to provide emergency shelter services, transitional and permanent housing, and support services to trafficked persons and families. Gives priority to agencies with expertise serving the target populations and existing programs serving

the target populations. Outlines the application procedures.

Subd. 4. Duties of grantees. Requires grantees to comply with DPS grant requirements and directs them to submit summary data on the number of trafficking victims in the state.

Subd. 5. Classification of data collected by grantees. Classifies personal history and identifying information on victims as private data.

3 Appropriation. Appropriates a blank amount for FY10 from the general fund to the commissioner of public safety to implement section 2.