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SENATE BILL 5127

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State of Washington                      59th Legislature                      2005 Regular Session

By Senators Kohl-Welles, Benton, Hargrove, Roach, Prentice,  
Thibaudeau, Stevens, Fraser and Keiser

Read first time 01/13/2005. Referred to Committee on Human Services  
& Corrections.

1            AN ACT Relating to services for victims of trafficking of humans;  
2 adding a new section to chapter 7.68 RCW; adding a new section to  
3 chapter 43.330 RCW; creating a new section; and declaring an emergency.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that human  
6 trafficking is growing to epidemic proportions and that our state is  
7 impacted. Human trafficking is one of the greatest threats to human  
8 dignity. It is the commodification of human beings and an assault on  
9 human values. Washington is, and must continue to be, a national  
10 leader at the state level in the fight against human trafficking.

11            The legislature recognizes there are many state agencies and  
12 private organizations that might be called on to provide services to  
13 victims of trafficking of humans. Victims of human trafficking are  
14 often in need of services such as emergency medical attention, food and  
15 shelter, vocational and English language training, mental health  
16 counseling, and legal support. The state intends to improve the  
17 response of state, local, and private entities to incidents of  
18 trafficking of humans. Victims would be better served if there is an  
19 established, coordinated system of identifying the needs of trafficking

1 victims, protocols for training of service delivery agencies and staff,  
2 timely and appropriate delivery of services, and better investigations  
3 and prosecutions of trafficking.

4 Leadership in providing services to victims of trafficking of  
5 humans also extends beyond government efforts and is grounded in the  
6 work of highly dedicated individuals and community-based groups.  
7 Without these efforts the struggle against human trafficking will be  
8 very difficult to win. The legislature, therefore, finds that such  
9 efforts merit regular public recognition and appreciation. Such  
10 recognition and appreciation will encourage the efforts of all persons  
11 to end human trafficking, and provide the public with information and  
12 education about the necessity of its involvement in this struggle.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 7.68 RCW  
14 to read as follows:

15 (1) By July 1, 2005, the director of the department of community,  
16 trade, and economic development, or the director's designee, shall  
17 within existing resources convene and chair a work group to develop  
18 written protocols for delivery of services to victims of trafficking of  
19 humans. The director shall invite appropriate federal agencies to  
20 consult with the work group for the purpose of developing protocols  
21 that, to the extent possible, are in concert with federal statutes,  
22 regulations, and policies. In addition to the director of the  
23 department of community, trade, and economic development, the following  
24 shall be members of the work group: The secretary of the department of  
25 health, the secretary of the department of social and health services,  
26 the attorney general, the director of the department of labor and  
27 industries, the commissioner of the employment security department, a  
28 representative of the Washington association of prosecuting attorneys,  
29 the chief of the Washington state patrol, two members selected by the  
30 Washington association of sheriffs and police chiefs, and five members,  
31 selected by the director of the department of community, trade, and  
32 economic development from a list submitted by public and private sector  
33 organizations that provide assistance to persons who are victims of  
34 trafficking. The attorney general, the chief of the Washington state  
35 patrol, and the secretaries or directors may designate a person to  
36 serve in their place.

37 Members of the work group shall serve without compensation.

1 (2) The protocols must meet all of the following minimum standards:

2 (a) The protocols must apply to the following state agencies: The  
3 department of community, trade, and economic development, the  
4 department of health, the department of social and health services, the  
5 attorney general's office, the Washington state patrol, the department  
6 of labor and industries, and the employment security department;

7 (b) The protocols must provide policies and procedures for  
8 interagency coordinated operations and cooperation with government  
9 agencies and nongovernmental organizations, agencies, and  
10 jurisdictions, including law enforcement agencies and prosecuting  
11 attorneys;

12 (c) The protocols must include the establishment of a data base  
13 electronically available to all affected agencies which contains the  
14 name, address, and telephone numbers of agencies that provide services  
15 to victims of human trafficking; and

16 (d) The protocols must provide guidelines for providing for the  
17 social service needs of victims of trafficking of humans, including  
18 housing, health care, and employment.

19 (3) By January 1, 2006, the work group shall finalize the written  
20 protocols and submit them with a report to the legislature and the  
21 governor.

22 (4) The protocols shall be reviewed on a biennial basis by the work  
23 group to determine whether revisions are appropriate. The director of  
24 the department of community, trade, and economic development, or the  
25 director's designee, shall within existing resources reconvene and  
26 chair the work group for this purpose.

27 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.330 RCW  
28 to read as follows:

29 (1) There is created an award to honor and recognize individuals  
30 and groups, public or private, who have made noteworthy efforts to  
31 fight human trafficking or to provide services to the victims of human  
32 trafficking.

33 (2) The governor, in conjunction with the director, shall identify  
34 and honor up to two individuals or groups, public or private, in  
35 Washington state who have made noteworthy efforts to fight human  
36 trafficking or to provide services to the victims of human trafficking.  
37 The award shall be given annually, commencing September 2005,

1 consistent with the availability of qualified nominees. The director  
2 shall appoint a broad-based advisory committee that includes community  
3 advocacy and other organizations and agencies serving trafficking  
4 victims, immigrants, and others affected by trafficking.

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate  
6 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of the  
7 state government and its existing public institutions, and takes effect  
8 immediately.

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