

FINAL BILL REPORT

ESSB 5884

C 273 L 15
Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Concerning the trafficking of persons.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Law & Justice (originally sponsored by Senators Kohl-Welles, Darneille, Padden, Keiser, Conway, Chase and Hasegawa).

Senate Committee on Law & Justice

House Committee on Public Safety

House Committee on General Government & Information Technology

Background: Washington uses a multi-faceted approach to reduce human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation. The criminal justice system pursues the criminals who profit from trafficking and holds them accountable. The social service, health care, and education systems support and care for trafficking victims and their families. Many nonprofit and community organizations across the state help trafficking victims with safe housing, transportation, and other necessities. State government has the challenging task of coordinating all of these efforts as efficiently and effectively as possible.

Social media and other emerging technologies serve an important purpose for the criminals in the business of sexual exploitation. Technology helps lure victims into the sex trade, and helps market the services to commercial sex consumers. The same technologies can help communities fight back through public education and by making resources available online to trafficking victims.

Currently Washington has a commercially sexually exploited children coordinating committee. The committee sunsets on June 30, 2015. Until June 30, 2004, Washington had a task force against human trafficking. The state's anti-trafficking efforts will improve by re-establishing the human trafficking task force and re-authorizing the coordinating committee for children exploited in the sex trade.

Summary: Information Clearinghouse. The Department of Commerce Office of Crime Victims Advocacy (OCVA) must create and maintain an information portal serving as the state government contact regarding human trafficking. The portal is known as the Washington State Clearinghouse on Human Trafficking. The clearinghouse must share and coordinate statewide efforts to combat the trafficking of persons. The clearinghouse must:

- coordinate information on all statewide human trafficking task forces;
- publish statewide task force reports;

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- maintain a comprehensive resource directory for trafficking victims; and
- offer current, up-to-date state and federal news, legislative efforts, and information on human trafficking.

State Anti-Trafficking Task Force and Children's Coordinating Committee. The OCVA must provide administrative support for the Washington State Task Force on the Trafficking of Persons (task force). This task force consists of one member from each of the two main caucuses of the House of Representatives and from each of the two main caucuses of the Senate, representatives from public agencies, organizations who serve trafficking victims and survivors, or work on trafficking issues, and at least one human trafficking survivor. The OCVA is authorized to add additional participants to the task force to ensure broad, diverse representation. The task force must:

- evaluate progress in Washington's anti-trafficking activities and services;
- consider anti-trafficking services and resources provided by other states;
- review effectiveness of Washington's anti-trafficking laws; and
- recommend needed changes to the Governor and the Legislature.

The commercially sexually exploited children statewide coordinating committee is authorized through June 30, 2017. The Attorney General's Office must convene the committee with agenda planning assistance and administrative and clerical support provided by the Department of Commerce. Three additional members join the committee: a representative from organizations providing youth with inpatient chemical dependency treatment, providing mental health treatment, and a survivor of human trafficking.

In addition to its current duties the committee must review the extent to which the 2010 law on sex crimes involving children (chapter 289, Laws of 2010; ESSB 6476) is understood and applied by law enforcement authorities and must research any barriers that exist to full implementation of the 2010 law throughout the state.

The Committee must report its findings regarding all aspects of its work, including its review and research regarding the 2010 law, to the appropriate committees of the Legislature by February 1, 2016.

Voluntary Anti-Trafficking Restroom Notice. The OCVA must review and approve a model human trafficking notice for use in an anti-trafficking information campaign. The OCVA must coordinate with public entities, private businesses, and community-based nonprofit organizations to develop notice placement policies. The notice is printed and distributed by anti-trafficking nonprofit organizations. Once the model notice is available, establishments that maintain a public restroom may voluntarily post the anti-trafficking notice. The OCVA must report the progress of the voluntary public restroom notices to legislative committees by December 31, 2016.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate	49	0	
House	96	0	(House amended)
House	98	0	(House amended)
Senate	48	0	

Effective: May 14, 2015