

By: Van de Putte

S.B. No. 1520

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the assessment of juveniles who are victims of sex
3 trafficking.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 221, Human Resources Code,
6 is amended by adding Section 221.0035 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 221.0035. BEST PRACTICES TO IDENTIFY AND ASSESS
8 VICTIMS OF SEX TRAFFICKING. (a) In this section, "sex trafficking"
9 means an offense under Section 20A.02(a)(7), Penal Code.

10 (b) The department shall evaluate the practices and
11 screening procedures used by juvenile probation departments for the
12 early identification of juveniles who are victims of sex
13 trafficking for the purpose of developing a recommended set of best
14 practices that may be used by a juvenile probation department to
15 improve the juvenile probation department's ability to identify a
16 juvenile who is a victim of sex trafficking.

17 (c) Best practices may include:

18 (1) examining a juvenile's referral history, including
19 whether the juvenile has a history of running away from home or has
20 been adjudicated for previous offenses;

21 (2) making inquiries into a juvenile's history of
22 sexual abuse;

23 (3) assessing a juvenile's need for services,
24 including counseling through a rape crisis center or other

1 counseling; and

2 (4) asking the juvenile a series of questions designed
3 to determine whether the juvenile is at high risk of being a victim
4 of sex trafficking.

5 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
6 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
7 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
8 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
9 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.