

By: Thompson of Harris

H.B. No. 188

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the continuation and duties of the human trafficking prevention task force.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 402.035(d) and (h), Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

(d) The task force shall:

(1) collaborate, as needed to fulfill the duties of the task force, with:

(A) United States attorneys for the districts of Texas; and

(B) special agents or customs and border protection officers and border patrol agents of:

(i) the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

(ii) the United States Drug Enforcement Administration;

(iii) the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives;

(iv) United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement; or

(v) the United States Department of Homeland Security;

(2) collect, organize, and periodically publish statistical data on the nature and extent of human trafficking in

1 this state, including data described by Subdivisions (4)(A), (B),  
2 (C), (D), and (E);

3 (3) solicit cooperation and assistance from state and  
4 local governmental agencies, political subdivisions of the state,  
5 nongovernmental organizations, and other persons, as appropriate,  
6 for the purpose of collecting and organizing statistical data under  
7 Subdivision (2);

8 (4) ensure that each state or local governmental  
9 agency and political subdivision of the state and each state or  
10 local law enforcement agency, district attorney, or county attorney  
11 that assists in the prevention of human trafficking collects  
12 statistical data related to human trafficking, including, as  
13 appropriate:

14 (A) the number of investigations concerning,  
15 arrests and prosecutions for, and convictions of:

16 (i) the offense of trafficking of persons;  
17 ~~and~~

18 (ii) the offense of forgery or an offense  
19 under Chapter 43, Penal Code, if the offense was committed as part  
20 of a criminal episode involving the trafficking of persons; and

21 (iii) an offense punishable under Section  
22 43.02(c)(3), Penal Code, regardless of whether the offense was  
23 committed as part of a criminal episode involving the trafficking  
24 of persons;

25 (B) demographic information on persons who are  
26 convicted of offenses described by Paragraph (A) and persons who  
27 are the victims of those offenses;

1 (C) geographic routes by which human trafficking  
2 victims are trafficked, including routes by which victims are  
3 trafficked across this state's international border, and  
4 geographic patterns in human trafficking, including the country or  
5 state of origin and the country or state of destination;

6 (D) means of transportation and methods used by  
7 persons who engage in trafficking to transport their victims; and

8 (E) social and economic factors that create a  
9 demand for the labor or services that victims of human trafficking  
10 are forced to provide;

11 (5) work with the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement  
12 [~~Officer Standards and Education~~] to develop and conduct training  
13 for law enforcement personnel, victim service providers, and  
14 medical service providers to identify victims of human trafficking;

15 (6) work with the Texas Education Agency, the  
16 Department of Family and Protective Services, and the Health and  
17 Human Services Commission to:

18 (A) develop a list of key indicators that a  
19 person is a victim of human trafficking;

20 (B) develop a standardized curriculum for  
21 training doctors, nurses, emergency medical services personnel,  
22 teachers, school counselors, school administrators, and personnel  
23 from the Department of Family and Protective Services and the  
24 Health and Human Services Commission to identify and assist victims  
25 of human trafficking;

26 (C) train doctors, nurses, emergency medical  
27 services personnel, teachers, school counselors, school

1 administrators, and personnel from the Department of Family and  
2 Protective Services and the Health and Human Services Commission to  
3 identify and assist victims of human trafficking;

4 (D) develop and conduct training for personnel  
5 from the Department of Family and Protective Services and the  
6 Health and Human Services Commission on methods for identifying  
7 children in foster care who may be at risk of becoming victims of  
8 human trafficking; and

9 (E) develop a process for referring identified  
10 human trafficking victims and individuals at risk of becoming  
11 victims to appropriate entities for services;

12 (7) on the request of a judge of a county court, county  
13 court at law, or district court or a county attorney, district  
14 attorney, or criminal district attorney, assist and train the judge  
15 or the judge's staff or the attorney or the attorney's staff in the  
16 recognition and prevention of human trafficking;

17 (8) examine training protocols related to human  
18 trafficking issues, as developed and implemented by federal, state,  
19 and local law enforcement agencies;

20 (9) collaborate with state and local governmental  
21 agencies, political subdivisions of the state, and nongovernmental  
22 organizations to implement a media awareness campaign in  
23 communities affected by human trafficking;

24 (10) develop recommendations on how to strengthen  
25 state and local efforts to prevent human trafficking, protect and  
26 assist human trafficking victims, and prosecute human trafficking  
27 offenders; ~~and~~

1           (11) examine the extent to which human trafficking is  
2 associated with the operation of sexually oriented businesses, as  
3 defined by Section 243.002, Local Government Code, and the  
4 workplace or public health concerns that are created by the  
5 association of human trafficking and the operation of sexually  
6 oriented businesses; and

7           (12) develop recommendations for addressing the  
8 demand for forced labor or services or sexual conduct involving  
9 victims of human trafficking, including recommendations for  
10 increased penalties for individuals who engage or attempt to engage  
11 in prostitution with victims younger than 18 years of age.

12           (h) This section expires September 1, 2017 ~~[2015]~~.

13           SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
14 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
15 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
16 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
17 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.