

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 1859

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a human trafficking unit within the Department of Public Safety of the State of Texas.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 411, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 411.02096 to read as follows:

Sec. 411.02096. HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNIT. (a) In this section:

(1) "Human trafficking" means conduct that constitutes an offense under Section 20A.02, Penal Code.

(2) "Unit" means the human trafficking unit established by this section.

(b) A human trafficking unit is created within the department to investigate and combat human trafficking.

(c) The unit shall collaborate with federal and local law enforcement agencies and the office of the attorney general's human trafficking prevention task force and transnational and organized crime division, as applicable, to investigate human trafficking and arrest persons determined to have engaged in human trafficking.

(d) The department, in consultation with the office of the attorney general, shall develop and provide specialized training for peace officers assigned to the unit.

(e) The unit may implement a public outreach campaign to combat human trafficking and may accept gifts, grants, or donations

1 or work with a nonprofit organization for purposes of implementing  
2 the campaign.

3 (f) If the unit implements a campaign under Subsection (e),  
4 the unit shall collaborate with local law enforcement agencies,  
5 school districts, and faith-based organizations and places of  
6 worship to educate persons younger than 18 years of age concerning  
7 the dangers associated with human trafficking.

8 (g) The legislature may appropriate funds to the department  
9 from the fugitive apprehension account for purposes of implementing  
10 this section.

11 (h) The department shall develop guidelines and protocols  
12 designed to minimize intrusion on a person who has an encounter with  
13 a peace officer performing a duty of the unit under this section.

14 (i) The department may adopt rules as necessary to implement  
15 this section.

16 SECTION 2. Not later than September 1, 2018, the Department  
17 of Public Safety of the State of Texas shall establish the human  
18 trafficking unit under Section 411.02096, Government Code, as added  
19 by this Act.

20 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.