

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 291

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 to investigate human trafficking and arrest persons determined to have engaged in human trafficking.

(d) The department shall provide specialized training for peace officers assigned to the unit.

(e) The department shall develop guidelines and protocols designed to minimize intrusion on a human trafficking victim who has an encounter with a peace officer performing a duty of the unit under this section.

(f) The department may adopt rules as necessary to implement

1 this section.

2 SECTION 2. Not later than September 1, 2020, the Department
3 of Public Safety of the State of Texas shall establish the human
4 trafficking unit under Section 411.02096, Government Code, as added
5 by this Act.

6 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.