

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of the Anti-Human-Trafficking Intelligence Center.

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

SECTION 1. Title 10, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Chapter 1705 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 1705. ANTI-HUMAN-TRAFFICKING INTELLIGENCE CENTER.

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

Sec. 1705.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Human trafficking" means an offense under Chapter 20A, Penal Code.

(2) "Center" means the anti-human-trafficking intelligence center established under this chapter.

(3) "Commission" means the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation.

(4) "Department" means the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

Sec. 1705.002. RULES. The commission shall adopt rules as necessary to implement this chapter.

SUBCHAPTER B. PURPOSE AND ADMINISTRATION

Sec. 1705.051. ANTI-HUMAN-TRAFFICKING INTELLIGENCE CENTER ESTABLISHED. The commission shall establish the center within the department.

Sec. 1705.052. PURPOSES OF CENTER. The purposes of the

1 center are to:

2 (1) serve as the state's primary entity for the
3 planning, coordination, and integration of law enforcement
4 agencies and other governmental agencies that respond to criminal
5 activity related to human trafficking; and

6 (2) maximize the ability of the department, law
7 enforcement agencies, and other governmental agencies to detect,
8 prevent, and respond to criminal activities related to human
9 trafficking.

10 Sec. 1705.053. OPERATION AGREEMENTS AUTHORIZED; CHIEF
11 INTELLIGENCE COORDINATOR. (a) The department:

12 (1) may enter into agreements with any person,
13 including but not limited to, fusion centers, law enforcement
14 agencies, or other governmental agencies for the operation of the
15 center; and

16 (2) shall enter into an agreement with a law
17 enforcement agency or other governmental agency for the appointment
18 of a chief intelligence coordinator to supervise and manage the
19 operation of the center.

20 (b) The chief intelligence coordinator appointed under the
21 agreement required by Subsection (a)(2) may be a licensed peace
22 officer. The agreement must provide that the commission of a chief
23 intelligence coordinator who is a licensed peace officer will be
24 carried by the agency with which the department enters into the
25 agreement under that subdivision.

26 (c) All anti-trafficking victim identifiers and other
27 information a law enforcement agency or other governmental agency

1 collects and maintains under an agreement entered into with the
2 department under this chapter shall be maintained as confidential
3 and not disclosed to any other individual, entity, or governmental
4 body without the express consent of the chief intelligence
5 coordinator. On termination of the agreement, the contracting
6 agency shall transfer the information to the department in
7 accordance with the terms of the agreement.

8 Sec. 1705.054. POWERS AND DUTIES. (a) The center may
9 collaborate with federal, state, and local governmental agencies to
10 accomplish the purposes of the center.

11 (b) The center may assist any person, including but not
12 limited to, fusion centers, law enforcement agencies, other
13 governmental agencies, financial institutions, credit card
14 issuers, debit card issuers, payment card networks, institutions of
15 higher education, and merchants in their efforts to develop and
16 implement strategies to:

- 17 (1) detect human trafficking;
18 (2) ensure an effective response if human trafficking
19 is detected; and
20 (3) prevent human trafficking.

21 (c) The center may:
22 (1) serve as a centralized collection point for
23 information related to human trafficking;
24 (2) provide training and educational opportunities to
25 law enforcement;
26 (3) provide outreach to the public; and
27 (4) release information, subject to applicable

1 privacy laws and agreements, to any person, including but not
2 limited to, fusion centers, other government agencies, financial
3 institutions, credit card issuers, debit card issuers, payment card
4 networks, institutions of higher education, and merchants if the
5 center does not consider the information to be sensitive to law
6 enforcement.

7 (d) For purposes of Subsection (c)(4), information is
8 considered sensitive to law enforcement if the information would
9 disclose the identity of an anti-trafficking victim, could cause
10 harm to law enforcement activities, or jeopardize an investigation
11 or operation if disclosed.

12 (e) Except as otherwise provided by this chapter, all
13 information and materials received, compiled, or created by the
14 center are confidential and not subject to:

- 15 (1) disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code; or
16 (2) disclosure, discovery, subpoena, or other means of
17 legal compulsion for their release to any person.

18 Sec. 1705.055. ANNUAL REPORT. (a) Not later than December
19 1 of each year, the chief intelligence coordinator shall file a
20 report with the department.

21 (b) The report must include:

22 (1) a plan of operation for the center and an estimate
23 of the amount of money necessary to implement that plan;

24 (2) an assessment of the current state of human
25 trafficking in this state, including:

26 (A) an identification of the geographic
27 locations in this state that have the highest statistical

1 probability for human trafficking; and

2 (B) a summary of human trafficking statistics for
3 the prior fiscal year;

4 (3) a detailed plan of operation for combatting human
5 trafficking;

6 (4) a communications plan for outreach to fusion
7 centers, other government agencies, law enforcement agencies,
8 financial institutions, credit card issuers, debit card issuers,
9 payment card networks, merchants, and the public; and

10 (5) a list of expenditures made since the most recent
11 report was filed with the department.

12 SUBCHAPTER C. FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

13 Sec. 1705.101. FUNDING. The department may solicit and
14 accept gifts, grants, and other donations to fund, administer, and
15 carry out the purposes of the center, except that the department may
16 not solicit or accept a gift, grant, or other donation from a
17 license holder as defined by Section 51.001.

18 Sec. 1705.102. AWARD OF GRANTS. (a) Subject to the
19 availability of appropriated money, the department may award grants
20 for the purposes of this chapter by entering into a contract with
21 each grant recipient.

22 (b) A grant recipient may use grant money to provide
23 training opportunities, conduct public outreach regarding
24 detection and prevention of human trafficking, and any other
25 activity that furthers the purposes of this chapter.

26 SECTION 2. (a) The Texas Department of Licensing and
27 Regulation may establish a workgroup composed of stakeholders to

1 provide input, advice, and recommendations regarding the
2 department's powers and duties under and the administration of
3 Chapter 1705, Occupations Code, added by this Act.

4 (b) If a workgroup is established as authorized by
5 Subsection (a) of this section, the Texas Department of Licensing
6 and Regulation shall lead the workgroup and determine the
7 workgroup's size, composition, and scope of purpose.

8 (c) A workgroup established under this section is abolished
9 and this section expires December 1, 2026.

10 SECTION 3. The Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation
11 shall adopt rules necessary to implement the changes in law made by
12 this Act not later than December 1, 2025.

13 SECTION 4. 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, 2025.