

HB 1181

2008

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to human trafficking; creating within the
3 Executive Office of the Governor the Florida Statewide
4 Task Force on Human Trafficking; prescribing the
5 membership of the task force; inviting participation by
6 agencies of the United States Government; providing for
7 meetings; requiring that the first hearing be conducted by
8 a specified date; providing for a quorum; providing that
9 meetings and records of the task force are subject to
10 public-meetings and open-records requirements; providing
11 for members of the task force to be reimbursed for per
12 diem and travel expenses; requiring that the certain
13 specified agencies provide staff support; providing
14 specific responsibilities and duties of the task force;
15 requiring that the task force file preliminary and final
16 reports and recommendations with the Governor and the
17 Legislature; requiring cooperation by state agencies;
18 abolishing the task force on a specified date; providing
19 an effective date.

20
21 WHEREAS, the trafficking in persons across and within
22 borders is a modern form of slavery, and it is the largest
23 manifestation of slavery today, and

24 WHEREAS, annually, thousands of persons, primarily women
25 and children, are trafficked within or across international
26 borders, and

27 WHEREAS, approximately 50,000 men, women, and children are
28 trafficked into the United States each year, and

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CODING: Words ~~stricken~~ are deletions; words underlined are additions.

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29 WHEREAS, trafficking in persons is not limited to the sex
30 industry, but also includes forced labor with significant
31 violations of labor, public health, and human rights standards
32 worldwide, and

33 WHEREAS, traffickers primarily target women and girls, who
34 are disproportionately affected by poverty, a lack of access to
35 education, chronic unemployment, discrimination, and the lack of
36 economic opportunities in their countries of origin, and

37 WHEREAS, there are not adequate services and facilities to
38 meet the needs of trafficking victims regarding health care,
39 housing, education, and legal assistance, and which safely
40 reintegrate trafficking victims into their home countries, NOW,
41 THEREFORE,

42

43 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

44

45 Section 1. Florida Statewide Task Force on Human
46 Trafficking.--

47 (1) The Legislature declares that the purpose of this act
48 is to create a public and private task force to examine and
49 analyze the problem of human trafficking and to plan for a
50 coordinated, humane response for victims of human trafficking
51 through a review of existing programs, a clarification of
52 existing options for such victims, a clearinghouse for
53 coordinated efforts to help persons in need, and revised policy
54 efforts to coordinate governmental and private efforts.

55 (2) (a) There is created within the Executive Office of the
56 Governor the Florida Statewide Task Force on Human Trafficking,

57 a task force as defined in s. 20.03, Florida Statutes. The task
 58 force is created for the express purpose of examining the
 59 problem of human trafficking and recommending strategies and
 60 actions for reducing or eliminating the unlawful trafficking of
 61 men, women, and children into this state.

62 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members,
 63 or a designee:

64 1. The executive director of the Department of Law
 65 Enforcement, who shall serve as co-chair.

66 2. The Secretary of Children and Family Services, who
 67 shall serve as co-chair.

68 3. The Chief Financial Officer.

69 4. The Commissioner of Agriculture.

70 5. The Attorney General.

71 6. The State Surgeon General.

72 7. The director of the Agency for Workforce Innovation.

73 8. The Secretary of Community Affairs.

74 9. A state attorney.

75 10. A public defender.

76 11. A sheriff.

77 12. A police chief.

78 13. A representative of the Florida League of Cities.

79 14. A representative of the Florida Association of
 80 Counties.

81 15. Eleven members representing governmental and
 82 nongovernmental organizations that provide direct services and
 83 assistance to the victims of human trafficking, such as refugee
 84 assistance organizations, immigration legal services, faith-

85 based organizations, domestic and sexual violence centers,
86 community mental health centers, labor organizations, and county
87 health units.

88 (c) The Governor shall appoint the task force members
89 described in subparagraphs (b)9.-15., by July 1, 2008. The
90 appointees must be representative of the geographic regions and
91 ethnic and gender diversity of this state and, to the extent
92 possible, members of the task force, or their designee, must
93 have experience providing services to trafficked persons or have
94 knowledge of human trafficking issues.

95 (d) The Governor may invite persons representing agencies
96 of the Federal Government to serve as nonvoting ex officio
97 members of the task force. The federal agencies that may
98 participate include, but are not limited to, the Federal Bureau
99 of Investigation, the Department of Homeland Security, the
100 Department of Labor, the Department of Justice, and the Bureau
101 of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

102 (e) The first meeting of the task force must be by
103 September 15, 2008. All actions of the task force, including
104 recommendations, shall be made by majority vote. Thirteen
105 members constitute a quorum.

106 (f) The task force shall meet at the call of the chairs
107 and shall conduct at least three public meetings in the state.
108 The meetings must be held in localities throughout this state
109 which may be significant portals for traffickers to bring
110 victims into this state. Meetings of the task force are open to
111 the public and are subject to the requirements of chapter 286,
112 Florida Statutes. Records of the task force are public records

113 and subject to the requirements of chapter 119, Florida
114 Statutes, except to the extent that public access to any of
115 those records may be restricted pursuant to chapter 119, Florida
116 Statutes.

117 (g) Members of the task force shall serve without
118 compensation, but are entitled to reimbursement for per diem and
119 travel expenses in accordance with s. 112.061, Florida Statutes.

120 (h) The Department of Law Enforcement, the Department of
121 Health, and the Department of Children and Family Services shall
122 provide staff support for the task force within existing
123 appropriations.

124 (3) The task force shall carry out the following
125 activities:

126 (a) Collect and organize data concerning the nature and
127 extent of trafficking in persons in Florida and measure and
128 evaluate the progress in the state in preventing trafficking,
129 protecting and providing assistance to victims of trafficking,
130 and prosecuting persons engaged in trafficking activities;

131 (b) Identify available federal, state, and local programs
132 that provide services to victims of trafficking, which include,
133 but are not limited to, health care, human services, housing,
134 education, legal assistance, job training or preparation,
135 interpreting services, English as a Second Language classes, and
136 victim's compensation;

137 (c) Evaluate approaches to increase public awareness of
138 trafficking, particularly the risks of becoming a trafficking
139 victim; the common recruitment techniques; the use of debt
140 bondage, blackmail, forced labor and services, prostitution, and

141 other coercive tactics; the crime victims' rights; and the
142 reporting of recruitment activities involved in trafficking;

143 (d) Analyze the current state, local, and federal criminal
144 statutes for their adequacy in addressing trafficking and, if
145 the analysis determines that those statutes are inadequate,
146 recommend revisions to those statutes or the enactment of new
147 statutes that specifically define and address trafficking;

148 (e) Consult with governmental and nongovernmental
149 organizations, especially those specializing in stopping
150 trafficking or representing diverse communities
151 disproportionately affected by trafficking, in developing
152 recommendations to strengthen state and local efforts to prevent
153 trafficking, protect and assist victims of trafficking, and
154 prosecute traffickers; and

155 (f) Explore any other subject that is relevant to reducing
156 or eliminating the risks of unlawful trafficking of human beings
157 in this state and protecting victims of the trafficking.

158 (4) The task force shall submit a preliminary draft report
159 of its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the
160 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
161 Representatives by July 1, 2009. The final report shall be filed
162 with the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker
163 of the House of Representatives by October 1, 2009. In addition
164 to the findings and recommendations included in the final
165 report, the report must include a draft of proposed rules and
166 proposed legislation for any recommendations requiring a change
167 in rules or legislation.

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168 (5) Each state agency shall fully cooperate with the task
169 force in the performance of its duties.

170 (6) All meetings of the task force and all business of the
171 task force for which reimbursement may be requested shall be
172 concluded before the final report is filed.

173 (7) The task force is abolished on July 1, 2010.

174 Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.