

By Senator Joyner

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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 and  
25 children, are trafficked within or across international borders,  
26 and

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

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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, a  
57 task force as defined in s. 20.03, Florida Statutes. The task

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58 force is created for the express purpose of examining the problem  
59 of human trafficking and recommending strategies and actions for  
60 reducing or eliminating the unlawful trafficking of men, women,  
61 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 shall  
67 serve as co-chair.

68 3. The Chief Financial Officer.

69 4. The Secretary of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

70 5. The Attorney General.

71 6. The Secretary of Health.

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-based  
85 organizations, domestic and sexual violence centers, community

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86 mental health centers, labor organizations, and county health  
87 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 have  
93 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 of  
101 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 members  
105 constitute a quorum.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

136 (c) Evaluate approaches to increase public awareness of  
137 trafficking, particularly the risks of becoming a trafficking  
138 victim; the common recruitment techniques; the use of debt  
139 bondage, blackmail, forced labor and services, prostitution, and  
140 other coercive tactics; the crime victims' rights; and the  
141 reporting of recruitment activities involved in trafficking;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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