

By Senator Campbell

38-01311A-18

20181784__

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to human trafficking; amending s.
3 16.617, F.S.; requiring the Statewide Council on Human
4 Trafficking to recommend specified identifiers or a
5 screening tool by a specified date to assist emergency
6 room health care personnel in recognizing victims of
7 human trafficking; requiring the Department of Health
8 to post the screening tool and certain information
9 provided by the council on its website; providing an
10 effective date.

11
12 WHEREAS, many young children, teenagers, and adults who
13 come in contact with Florida's health care system are not
14 recognized as victims of human trafficking when, in fact, they
15 are, and

16 WHEREAS, emergency room personnel are often the first
17 health care professionals to interact with these victims, who
18 are subjected to force, fraud, or coercion for purposes of
19 sexual exploitation or forced labor, and

20 WHEREAS, few clinicians know how to identify victims of
21 human trafficking amongst their patients; and

22 WHEREAS, potential indicators of human trafficking
23 victimization may include visible bruises and scars, frequent
24 injuries, or inconsistencies in a patient's description of how
25 an injury occurred; and

26 WHEREAS, some hospitals developed their own human
27 trafficking protocols and the variation in different protocols
28 creates confusion; and

29 WHEREAS, access to standardized human trafficking protocols

38-01311A-18

20181784__

30 would enable emergency room personnel to recognize victims of
31 human trafficking and respond appropriately, and

32 WHEREAS, the National Human Trafficking Resource Center
33 serves victims and survivors of human trafficking, is a leader
34 in the global fight for human trafficking victims, and provides
35 recommendations for human trafficking assessments in healthcare
36 settings, NOW, THEREFORE,

37
38 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

39
40 Section 1. Present paragraph (e) of subsection (4) of
41 section 16.617, Florida Statutes, is redesignated as paragraph
42 (f), and a new paragraph (e) is added to that section, to read:

43 16.617 Statewide Council on Human Trafficking; creation;
44 membership; duties.-

45 (4) DUTIES.-The council shall:

46 (e) By January 1, 2019, the council shall recommend the
47 indicators of human trafficking identified by the National Human
48 Trafficking Resource Center for use in a health care setting or
49 an evidence-based national and standardized screening tool to
50 assist emergency room health care personnel in recognizing child
51 and adult victims of human trafficking. The Department of Health
52 shall post such indicators or screening tool on its website,
53 along with information on reporting, referral services, and any
54 other information provided by the council to such personnel.

55 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2018.