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SENATE BILL 5883

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State of Washington                      64th Legislature                      2015 Regular Session

By Senators Kohl-Welles, Padden, Keiser, Conway, Chase, and Hasegawa

Read first time 02/09/15. Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

1            AN ACT Relating to human trafficking informational posters in  
2 public restrooms; adding a new section to chapter 47.38 RCW; and  
3 creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5            NEW SECTION.        **Sec. 1.**        (1) The legislature has long been  
6 committed to increasing access to support services for human  
7 trafficking victims and promoting awareness of human trafficking  
8 throughout Washington state. In light of the 2010 winter olympics  
9 taking place in Vancouver, British Columbia, the legislature enacted  
10 RCW 47.38.080, permitting an approved nonprofit to place  
11 informational human trafficking posters in restrooms located in rest  
12 areas along Interstate 5. Sporting events, such as the winter  
13 olympics or the upcoming 2015 United States open golf tournament at  
14 Chambers Bay, provide lucrative opportunities for human traffickers  
15 to exploit adults and children for labor and sexual services. The  
16 legislature finds that an effective way to combat human trafficking  
17 is to increase awareness of human trafficking for both victims and  
18 the general public alike as well as who and how to contact for help  
19 and support services, for both victims and the general public alike.

20            (2) Human trafficking data are primarily obtained through a  
21 hotline reporting system in which victims and witnesses can report

1 cases of human trafficking over the phone. Since 2007, there have  
2 been one thousand eight hundred fifty human trafficking calls made  
3 through the human trafficking victim hotline system in Washington  
4 state, and a total of four hundred thirty-two human trafficking cases  
5 reported. It is the intent of the legislature to facilitate an even  
6 wider scope of communication with human trafficking victims and  
7 witnesses by requiring human trafficking information to be posted in  
8 all public restrooms.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 47.38  
10 RCW to read as follows:

11 (1) Every establishment that maintains restrooms for use by the  
12 public must, upon availability of the model notice as described in  
13 subsection (2) of this section, post a notice that complies with the  
14 requirements of this section in a conspicuous place within all  
15 restrooms of the establishment in clear view of the public and  
16 employees. Establishments may work with human trafficking victim  
17 advocates to adopt policies for the placement of such notices.

18 (2)(a) The model notice to be posted pursuant to subsection (1)  
19 of this section may be in a variety of languages and include  
20 toll-free telephone numbers a person may call for assistance,  
21 including the number for the national human trafficking resource  
22 center and the number for the Washington state office of crime  
23 victims advocacy.

24 (b) The office of crime victims advocacy shall review and approve  
25 the initial form and content of the model notice to ensure the notice  
26 is appropriate for public display and likely to be an effective  
27 communication to reach human trafficking victims. The office of crime  
28 victims advocacy shall review the model notice on a yearly basis to  
29 ensure the information provided remains accurate.

30 (3) The cost of production, printing, and posting of the model  
31 notices shall be paid by a participating nonprofit at no cost to the  
32 state.

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