
ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 5355

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2023 Regular Session

By Senators C. Wilson, Kuderer, Lovelett, Nguyen, Randall, Valdez, and Wellman

Read first time 01/13/23. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to mandating instruction on sex trafficking
2 prevention and identification for students in grades seven through
3 12; adding a new section to chapter 28A.320 RCW; adding a new section
4 to chapter 28A.300 RCW; and creating a new section.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature recognizes that:

7 (1) The United States has the second largest concentration of
8 past and current trafficking victims, and Washington state is
9 currently the sixth largest epicenter of sex trafficking in the
10 United States.

11 (2) More than 45 percent of all sex trafficking victims are
12 minors and attending our nation's schools every day.

13 (3) Currently, most trafficking avoids detection, with one study
14 from the national institute of justice finding that "fewer than half
15 of all suspected traffickers in the United States had been arrested."
16 Recent national institute of justice supported research reveals that
17 labor and sex trafficking data appearing in the federal bureau of
18 investigation's national uniform crime reporting program may
19 significantly understate the extent of trafficking crimes in the
20 United States.

1 (4) The undefined nature of human trafficking contributes to
2 widespread ignorance for public agencies in a position to address the
3 crime. Sixty percent of state and local prosecutors nationwide "do
4 not consider trafficking a problem in their jurisdictions," and over
5 70 percent of local, state, and county law enforcement agencies
6 wrongly "view human trafficking as rare or nonexistent" in their
7 local communities.

8 (5) Nearly half of prosecutors and law enforcement agencies
9 across the country are unaware of specific existing antitrafficking
10 laws or definitions that constitute acts of human trafficking, which
11 manifests in current ineffective mitigation strategies.

12 (6) Child sex trafficking survivors are disproportionately girls
13 of color. In King county, 52 percent of all child sex trafficking
14 victims are black and 84 percent of youth victims are female, while
15 black girls comprise 1.1 percent of the population.

16 (7) Sex traffickers are not overgeneralized to any demographic
17 but are disproportionately white men. In King county, 80 percent of
18 sex traffickers are white men.

19 (8) Females of color bear the brunt of prostitution imprisonment
20 as a result of sexual violence in sex trafficking due to mandatory
21 arrests. For example, Latinx women account for nearly 61 percent of
22 juvenile prostitution arrests. By contrast, sex traffickers face
23 little to no consequences for their role in exploitation.

24 (9) Twenty-five service agencies participated in a 2007 survey.
25 Nineteen of these agencies provided information that aligned with
26 what are understood to be "red-flag" indicators of trafficking
27 situations. Victimization and human trafficking are considerable
28 concerns for eastern Washington, particularly Spokane, and there is a
29 wide spectrum of trafficking activities that include sex slavery,
30 forced prostitution, forced panhandling, farm labor, janitorial work,
31 and domestic servitude.

32 (10) On any given day, between 300 and 500 people, some as young
33 as 11 years old, are trafficked in the Puget Sound area for labor or
34 sex.

35 (11) Intersectional, accurate, and actionable sex trafficking
36 education is necessary to enable all students to break down
37 stereotypes of affected parties in sex trafficking and provide them
38 with tools for identifying and combatting this crime.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.320
2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) Beginning no later than the 2025-26 school year, school
4 districts must provide instruction on sex trafficking prevention and
5 identification at least once between grades seven and 12.

6 (2) The instruction may be integrated into other relevant
7 courses, or an existing course may be repurposed to include this
8 instruction depending on the school or school district funding and
9 circumstances.

10 (3) The instruction required under this section must include the
11 following:

12 (a) Information related to race, gender, and socioeconomic status
13 in sex trafficking as it relates to both victims and perpetrators,
14 including issues of intersectionality and legislative implications of
15 these categories;

16 (b) Medically and legally accurate definitions of sex trafficking
17 and information related to how terms become stigmatized, which in
18 turn leads to a lack of reporting and difficulties with detecting and
19 prosecuting the crime; and

20 (c) Information related to reporting systems and community
21 engagement opportunities with local, state, or national organizations
22 against sex trafficking and basic identification training to
23 determine if an individual is at risk of or has been sex trafficked.

24 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 28A.300
25 RCW to read as follows:

26 The child sexual abuse and sex trafficking prevention and
27 identification public-private partnership account is created in the
28 custody of the state treasurer. All receipts from gifts, grants, or
29 endowments from public or private sources, federal funds, and any
30 appropriations made by the legislature or other sources must be
31 deposited into the account. Expenditures from the account may be used
32 only for curriculum and professional development to support
33 instruction on child sexual abuse and sex trafficking prevention and
34 identification. Only the superintendent of public instruction or the
35 superintendent's designee may authorize expenditures from the
36 account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter
37 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for expenditures.

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