

CERTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT

**ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 5355**

Chapter 328, Laws of 2023

68th Legislature  
2023 Regular Session

SCHOOL DISTRICTS—SEX TRAFFICKING AWARENESS AND PREVENTION INSTRUCTION

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 23, 2023

Passed by the Senate April 17, 2023  
Yeas 48 Nays 0

DENNY HECK

**President of the Senate**

Passed by the House April 10, 2023  
Yeas 97 Nays 0

LAURIE JINKINS

**Speaker of the House of  
Representatives**

Approved May 4, 2023 4:09 PM

JAY INSLEE

**Governor of the State of Washington**

CERTIFICATE

I, Sarah Bannister, Secretary of the Senate of the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the attached is **ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 5355** as passed by the Senate and the House of Representatives on the dates hereon set forth.

SARAH BANNISTER

**Secretary**

FILED

May 5, 2023

**Secretary of State  
State of Washington**

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**ENGROSSED SENATE BILL 5355**

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AS AMENDED BY THE HOUSE

Passed Legislature - 2023 Regular Session

**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 offer instruction in sex trafficking awareness and  
5    prevention. The instruction may be offered beginning in grade seven,  
6    but each student must be offered the instruction at least once before  
7    completing grade 12. The instruction, at the discretion of the school  
8    or school district, may be integrated into a relevant course or a  
9    course may be repurposed to include the instruction.

10       (2) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
11    specific purpose, on or before June 30, 2024, the office of the  
12    superintendent of public instruction must review curricula related to  
13    the awareness and prevention of sex trafficking.

14       (3) To the extent practicable, the office of the superintendent  
15    of public instruction must make available in the library of openly  
16    licensed courseware under RCW 28A.300.803, curricular resources  
17    related to the awareness and prevention of sex trafficking that  
18    include:

19       (a) Information about the race, gender, and socioeconomic status  
20    of sex trafficking victims and perpetrators;

21       (b) Medically and legally accurate definitions of sex  
22    trafficking, and information about term stigmatization and how it may  
23    reduce reporting and increase the difficulty of detecting and  
24    prosecuting sex trafficking crimes;

25       (c) Information about reporting systems and community engagement  
26    opportunities with local, state, or national organizations against  
27    sex trafficking, and basic identification training to determine if an  
28    individual is at risk of or has been sex trafficked; and

29       (d) Information to help students recognize the signs and behavior  
30    changes in others that may indicate grooming for sex trafficking or  
31    other unlawful, coercive relationships.

32       (4) This section governs school operation and management under  
33    RCW 28A.710.040 and 28A.715.020, and applies to charter schools  
34    established under chapter 28A.710 RCW and state-tribal education  
35    compact schools established under chapter 28A.715 RCW to the same  
36    extent as it applies to school districts.

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

1       The child sexual abuse and sex trafficking prevention and  
2 identification public-private partnership account is created in the  
3 custody of the state treasurer. All receipts from gifts, grants, or  
4 endowments from public or private sources, federal funds, and any  
5 appropriations made by the legislature or other sources must be  
6 deposited into the account. Expenditures from the account may be used  
7 only for curriculum and professional development to support  
8 instruction on child sexual abuse and sex trafficking prevention and  
9 identification. Only the superintendent of public instruction or the  
10 superintendent's designee may authorize expenditures from the  
11 account. The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter  
12 43.88 RCW, but an appropriation is not required for expenditures.

Passed by the Senate April 17, 2023.

Passed by the House April 10, 2023.

Approved by the Governor May 4, 2023.

Filed in Office of Secretary of State May 5, 2023.

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