

SENATE BILL NO. 223—SENATOR BUCK

FEBRUARY 19, 2025

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

SUMMARY—Revises provisions relating to crimes. (BDR 15-634)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.
Effect on the State: Yes.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~for mitted-material~~ is material to be omitted.

AN ACT relating to crimes; increasing the penalties for sex trafficking a child or facilitating the sex trafficking of a child; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1 Existing law makes the offense of sex trafficking a child a category A felony,
2 punishable by imprisonment in the state prison for life with the possibility of
3 parole. The minimum number of years that must be served before becoming
4 eligible for parole and the amount of a fine imposed for such an offense are based
5 upon the age of the child when the offense is committed. For an offense committed
6 against a child who is less than 14 years of age when the offense is committed: (1)
7 eligibility for parole begins when a minimum of 15 years has been served; and (2)
8 the person may be punished by a fine of not more than \$20,000. For an offense
9 committed against a child who is at least 14 years of age but less than 16 years of
10 age when the offense is committed: (1) eligibility for parole begins when a
11 minimum of 10 years has been served; and (2) the person may be punished by a
12 fine of not more than \$10,000. For an offense committed against a child who is at
13 least 16 years of age but less than 18 years of age when the offense is committed:
14 (1) eligibility for parole begins when a minimum of 5 years has been served; and
15 (2) the person may be punished by a fine of not more than \$10,000. (NRS 201.300)

16 **Section 1** of this bill increases the penalties for the offense of sex trafficking a
17 child and provides that for an offense committed against a child who is: (1) less
18 than 14 years of age when the offense is committed, the perpetrator must be
19 punished by imprisonment in the state prison for life either without the possibility
20 of parole or with the possibility of parole beginning when a minimum of 20 years
21 has been served, and by a fine of not more than \$40,000; (2) at least 14 years of age
22 but less than 16 years of age when the offense is committed, the perpetrator must be
23 punished by imprisonment in the state prison for life with the possibility of parole
24 beginning when a minimum of 15 years has been served, and by a fine of not more
25 than \$20,000; and (3) at least 16 years of age but less than 18 years of age when the
26 offense is committed, the perpetrator must be punished by imprisonment in the state



27 prison for life with eligibility for parole beginning when a minimum of 10 years has
28 been served, and by a fine of not more than \$20,000.

29 Existing law makes the crime of facilitating sex trafficking of a victim who is
30 less than 18 years of age a category B felony, punishable by imprisonment in the
31 state prison for a minimum term of not less than 3 years and a maximum term of
32 not more than 10 years. (NRS 201.301) **Section 2** of this bill increases the
33 punishment for such a crime to imprisonment in the state prison for a minimum
34 term of 8 years and a maximum term of 20 years.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 **Section 1.** NRS 201.300 is hereby amended to read as follows:

2 201.300 1. A person who without physical force or the
3 immediate threat of physical force, induces an adult to unlawfully
4 become a prostitute or to continue to engage in prostitution, or to
5 enter any place within this State in which prostitution is practiced,
6 encouraged or allowed for the purpose of sexual conduct or
7 prostitution is guilty of pandering which is a category C felony and
8 shall be punished as provided in NRS 193.130. This subsection does
9 not apply to the customer of a prostitute.

10 2. A person:

11 (a) Is guilty of sex trafficking if the person:

12 (1) Induces, causes, recruits, harbors, transports, provides,
13 obtains or maintains a child to engage in prostitution, or to enter any
14 place within this State in which prostitution is practiced, encouraged
15 or allowed for the purpose of sexual conduct or prostitution;

16 (2) Induces, recruits, harbors, transports, provides, obtains or
17 maintains a person by any means, knowing, or in reckless disregard
18 of the fact, that threats, violence, force, intimidation, fraud, duress
19 or coercion will be used to cause the person to engage in
20 prostitution, or to enter any place within this State in which
21 prostitution is practiced, encouraged or allowed for the purpose of
22 sexual conduct or prostitution;

23 (3) By threats, violence, force, intimidation, fraud, duress,
24 coercion, by any device or scheme, or by abuse of any position of
25 confidence or authority, or having legal charge, takes, places,
26 harbors, induces, causes, compels or procures a person to engage in
27 prostitution, or to enter any place within this State in which
28 prostitution is practiced, encouraged or allowed for the purpose of
29 sexual conduct or prostitution;

30 (4) Takes or detains a person with the intent to compel the
31 person by force, violence, threats or duress to marry him or her or
32 any other person; or

33 (5) Receives anything of value with the specific intent of
34 facilitating a violation of this paragraph.



1 (b) Who is found guilty of sex trafficking:

2 (1) An adult is guilty of a category B felony and shall be
3 punished by imprisonment in the state prison for a minimum term of
4 not less than 3 years and a maximum term of not more than 10
5 years, and may be further punished by a fine of not more than
6 \$10,000.

7 (2) A child:

8 (I) If the child is less than 14 years of age when the
9 offense is committed, is guilty of a category A felony and shall be
10 punished by imprisonment in the state prison for *life without the*
11 *possibility of parole, or for* life with the possibility of parole ~~[-]~~ with
12 eligibility for parole beginning when a minimum of ~~[+5]~~ 20 years
13 has been served, and may be further punished by a fine of not more
14 than ~~[\$20,000.]~~ \$40,000.

15 (II) If the child is at least 14 years of age but less than 16
16 years of age when the offense is committed, is guilty of a category
17 A felony and shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison
18 for life with the possibility of parole, with eligibility for parole
19 beginning when a minimum of ~~[+0]~~ 15 years has been served, and
20 may be further punished by a fine of not more than ~~[\$10,000.]~~
21 \$20,000.

22 (III) If the child is at least 16 years of age but less than 18
23 years of age when the offense is committed, is guilty of a category
24 A felony and shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison
25 for life with the possibility of parole, with eligibility for parole
26 beginning when a minimum of ~~[5]~~ 10 years has been served, and
27 may be further punished by a fine of not more than ~~[\$10,000.]~~
28 \$20,000.

29 3. A court shall not grant probation to or suspend the sentence
30 of a person convicted of sex trafficking a child pursuant to
31 subsection 2.

32 4. Consent of a victim of pandering or sex trafficking to an act
33 of prostitution is not a defense to a prosecution for any of the acts
34 prohibited by this section.

35 5. In a prosecution for sex trafficking a child pursuant to
36 subsection 2, it is not a defense that the defendant did not have
37 knowledge of the victim's age, nor is reasonable mistake of age a
38 valid defense to a prosecution conducted pursuant to subsection 2.

39 **Sec. 2.** NRS 201.301 is hereby amended to read as follows:

40 201.301 1. A person is guilty of facilitating sex trafficking if
41 the person:

42 (a) Facilitates, arranges, provides or pays for the transportation
43 of a person to or within this State with the intent of:



1 (1) Inducing the person to engage in prostitution in violation
2 of subparagraph (1), (2) or (3) of paragraph (a) of subsection 2 of
3 NRS 201.300;

4 (2) Inducing the person to enter any place within this State in
5 which prostitution is practiced, encouraged or allowed for the
6 purpose of sexual conduct or prostitution in violation of
7 subparagraph (1), (2) or (3) of paragraph (a) of subsection 2 of NRS
8 201.300; or

9 (3) If the person is a child, using the person for any act that is
10 prohibited by NRS 200.710 or 200.720;

11 (b) Sells travel services that facilitate the travel of another
12 person to this State with the knowledge that the other person is
13 traveling to this State for the purpose of:

14 (1) Engaging in sexual conduct with a person who has been
15 induced to engage in sexual conduct or prostitution in violation
16 of subparagraph (1), (2) or (3) of paragraph (a) of subsection 2 of
17 NRS 201.300;

18 (2) Soliciting a child who has been induced to engage in
19 sexual conduct or prostitution in violation of subparagraph (1), (2)
20 or (3) of paragraph (a) of subsection 2 of NRS 201.300; or

21 (3) Engaging in any act involving a child that is prohibited
22 by NRS 200.710 or 200.720; or

23 (c) Travels to or within this State by any means with the intent
24 of engaging in:

25 (1) Sexual conduct with a person who has been induced to
26 engage in sexual conduct or prostitution in violation of
27 subparagraph (1), (2) or (3) of paragraph (a) of subsection 2 of NRS
28 201.300, with the knowledge that such a person has been induced to
29 engage in such sexual conduct or prostitution; or

30 (2) Any act involving a child that is prohibited by NRS
31 200.710 or 200.720.

32 2. A person who is found guilty of facilitating sex trafficking is
33 guilty of a category B felony and:

34 (a) If the victim is 18 years of age or older, shall be punished by
35 imprisonment in the state prison for a minimum term of not less
36 than 1 year and a maximum term of not more than 6 years.

37 (b) If the victim is less than 18 years of age, shall be punished
38 by imprisonment in the state prison for a minimum term of ~~not less~~
39 ~~than 3~~ 8 years and a maximum term of ~~not more than 10~~ 20 years.

40 **Sec. 3.** This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.

