

SENATE BILL 1655

By Kelsey

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 29; Title 4, Chapter 3; Title 4, Chapter 4; Title 38, Chapter 3; Title 38, Chapter 6 and Title 38, Chapter 8, relative to training.

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery. Victims of human trafficking are young children, teenagers, and adults. Victims of human trafficking are primarily citizens of the United States and those persons trafficked domestically within the borders of the United States. Thousands of victims are also trafficked annually across international borders worldwide, many of which are trafficked into or through Tennessee. Victims of human trafficking are subjected to force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of sexual exploitation or forced labor; and

WHEREAS, while many victims of human trafficking are forced to work in prostitution or the sexual entertainment industry in Tennessee, trafficking also occurs in forms of labor exploitation, such as domestic servitude, restaurant work, janitorial work, and migrant agricultural work; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking has been detected and identified in seventy-eight (78) counties in the state of Tennessee, and children and youth are disproportionately harmed by the oppressive and exploitive tactics of human traffickers; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Legislature that the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation prepare and implement training programs in order that judges, attorneys, law enforcement personnel, investigators, educators, health personnel, and other state agencies are able to identify traffickers and victims of human trafficking and direct victims to appropriate agencies for assistance; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 38, Chapter 6, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

38-6-114.

(a) The Tennessee bureau of investigation shall, by January 1, 2015:

(1) Implement a course or courses of instruction for the training of law enforcement officers and state personnel in this state in the handling of human trafficking complaints; and

(2) Develop guidelines for law enforcement response to human trafficking.

(b)

(1) The course or courses of instruction and the guidelines shall emphasize:

(A) The dynamics and manifestations of human trafficking;

(B) Identifying and communicating with victims;

(C) Providing documentation that satisfies the peace officers standards and training (POST) commission requirements;

(D) Collaboration with federal law enforcement officials;

(E) Therapeutically appropriate investigative techniques;

(F) The availability of civil and immigration remedies and community resources; and

(G) Protection of the victim.

(2) Where appropriate, the trainers shall include presentations by human trafficking experts with experience in the delivery of direct services to victims of human trafficking.

(3) Completion of the course may be satisfied by telecommunication, video recording, or other instruction presentation method.

(c) The course of instruction for the training of state personnel shall be approved by the human trafficking task force, as established under §§ 4-3-3001 – § 4-3-3005.

(d) Every law enforcement officer who is assigned field or investigative duties shall complete a minimum of four (4) hours of training in a course or courses of instruction pertaining to the handling of human trafficking complaints as described in subsection (b) by July 1, 2016, or within six (6) months of being assigned those duties, whichever is later.

(e) The Tennessee bureau of investigation shall designate six (6) special agents responsible for the delivery and coordination of the course of instruction for state personnel on human trafficking throughout the state.

(f) Delivery of the course of instruction on human trafficking shall be made to the following departments, agencies or associations:

- (1) Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges;
- (2) Department of children's services;
- (3) Department of education;
- (4) Department of health;
- (5) Department of human services;
- (6) Department of mental health and substance abuse services;
- (7) Department of safety;
- (8) Department of labor and workforce development;
- (9) District attorneys general conference;

- (10) District public defenders conference;
- (11) Office of the attorney general and reporter;
- (12) Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police;
- (13) Tennessee economic council on women; and
- (14) Tennessee Sheriffs' Association.

(g) The Tennessee bureau of investigation, in consultation with the human trafficking task force, shall review existing training programs to determine how human trafficking training may be included as a part of ongoing training programs.

(h) Furnishing personnel and appropriations for the training course shall be the sole responsibility of the Tennessee bureau of investigation. Departments, agencies or associations included under subsection (f) shall be provided the training at no cost to the department, agency or association.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2014, the public welfare requiring it.