



## State of Tennessee

### PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 435

#### HOUSE BILL NO. 172

By Representatives Coley, McManus, Richardson, Gilmore, Shepard, White, Jones, Alexander, Eldridge, Camper, Dean

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 605

By Senators Marrero, Burke, Berke, Ford, Harper, Overbay

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 13, Part 3, to enact the "National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline Act".

WHEREAS, the trafficking of human beings for sexual servitude and forced labor is considered second only to transfer of arms as the largest and fastest growing illegal activity in the world; and

WHEREAS, children are victims of human sex trafficking, they are commercially sexually exploited by traffickers who enslave them and sell them for the purpose of sexually pleasuring customers who rape, molest and sexually abuse these children; and

WHEREAS, children in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems are especially preyed upon by human traffickers because of vulnerabilities they exhibit subsequent to extreme trauma, maltreatment, pervasive neglect, and behavioral health problems experienced by these children in their lives; and

WHEREAS, study and reporting by the Select Committee on Children and Youth and the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation as well as reporting from a network of local grassroots anti-human trafficking coalitions and non-government agencies all across the state have verified that activities of human trafficking and the commercial sexual exploitation of children is occurring in our state; and

WHEREAS, statistics drawn from law enforcement agencies and social services agencies within Tennessee show that seventy-eight of the state's ninety-five counties report having worked at least one case of human sex trafficking of adults or children within the past twenty-four months and the total number of cases worked statewide in the same time period could be as high as four thousand; and

WHEREAS, the victims of human trafficking and children who are commercially sexually exploited are deserving of attention and action of the law enforcement, courts, and social services agencies of the State of Tennessee to rescue them from enslavement and restore safety for them; now, therefore,

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

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 13, Part 3, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

39-13-312.

(a) This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Tennessee Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline Act".

(b) There is created the Tennessee Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline to be established and maintained by the Tennessee bureau of investigation in a manner consistent with this section.

(c) Any governmental entity or private business or establishment that provides or offers a place of assembly or entertainment, transportation, lodging, dining, educational, medical or leisure activities or services, or any business or

establishment that is licensed by the state or any political subdivision thereof, or that is engaged in commerce in this state is strongly encouraged to post a sign indicating certain information regarding the Tennessee human trafficking resource center hotline in a location within the governmental entity or establishment where it is visible to employees and the general public. The sign shall be no smaller than eight and one-half inches by eleven inches (8 ½" x 11"). Unless stated otherwise in this section, it may be posted near the entrance of the establishment or prominently where notices are usually posted. The sign shall state the following:

Tennessee Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline at (appropriate toll-free number once established).

If you or someone you know is being forced to engage in any activity and cannot leave - whether it is commercial sex, housework, farm work or any other activity - call the Tennessee Human Trafficking Hotline to access help and services.

Victims of human trafficking are protected under United States and Tennessee law.

The hotline is:

Anonymous and confidential

Available 24/7

Toll free

Available to Non-English speaking callers through assistance of Interpreters

(d) All calls made to the Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline, the content of any conversation thereon and the telephone number from which the call was made is confidential, is not an open record and not available for public inspection except by order of a court of competent jurisdiction when necessary in a pending criminal investigation.

(e)

(1) Any entity or establishment posting a sign pursuant to this section may post the sign in English, Spanish and any other language mandated by the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (Public Law 89-110, 42 U.S.C. § 1973 et seq.) in the county where the sign will be posted.

(2) The title of the sign, the Tennessee human trafficking resource center hotline at (-----) shall be boldfaced, underlined and no smaller than twenty-eight (28) point font size.

(3) The department of labor and workforce development shall provide the sign authorized by this section on its Internet web site for entities or establishments to print as needed.

(4) The department of labor and workforce development shall periodically send an electronic notification to any business or establishment that is licensed by the state or any political subdivision thereof that encourages posting pursuant to this section.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on October 1, 2011, the public welfare requiring

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PASSED: May 21, 2011

  
BETH HARWELL, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

  
RON RAMSEY  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 7<sup>th</sup> day of June 2011

  
BILL HASLAM, GOVERNOR