



**General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
JOINT STATE GOVERNMENT COMMISSION**

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S U M M A R Y – Report on *Human Trafficking in Pennsylvania*

The crime of human trafficking is growing in Pennsylvania, and the Commonwealth has seen many local and regional collaborative responses rise to combat this crime. Inroads have been made in public awareness, training first responders, and in providing services to the many victims. This study by the Joint State Government Commission proposes numerous reforms, including draft legislation, to help accelerate efforts to combat human trafficking in the state. The study was conducted under Senate Resolution 253 of 2010, sponsored by Senator Stewart Greenleaf, and was aided by an Advisory Committee of experts. For the first time, a proposed state plan addresses human trafficking, coordinates services, enhances collaboration and strengthens Pennsylvania law. Highlights of the report include:

Findings:

- The two most common forms of human trafficking – sex trafficking and labor trafficking – obtained through the use of force, fraud or coercion, exist in Pennsylvania.
- It is the second largest form of organized crime in the world behind the illegal drug trade.
- 12.3 million people worldwide are victims of trafficking.
- Pennsylvania is a source, destination and pass-through state for trafficking in persons.
- Trafficking victims may be hard to identify and are sometimes treated as criminals.
- Public awareness and professional training, increased penalties and access to victim services are crucial for combating human trafficking.
- Success in combating human trafficking requires concerted efforts of organizations and agencies on the regional, national and international levels.

Recommendations:

- Recommendations contained in the report focus on three specific areas: Prevention and Awareness; Investigations and Prosecution; and Protection and Support.
- This report proposes a new Chapter 30 (Human Trafficking) of Title 18 Pa.C.S., including:
 - a state Council for the prevention of human trafficking within PCCD;
 - clear definitions of sex and labor trafficking;
 - increased fines and penalties for trafficking and involuntary servitude, and adds penalties for business entities, including license revocation and forfeiture of contracts;
 - participation in the national human trafficking hotline;
 - increased training for first responders;
 - expanded resources available to victim service providers.
- Enacting these policy and legislative recommendations will increase the training and awareness of law enforcement and first responders, expand the legal tools available for prosecutors and investigators, and provide more resources to victim service providers and advocates.

The full report is also available on our website: <http://jsg.legis.state.pa.us/>