

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 964

(Senator Lee)

Finance

Judiciary

**Social Services - Youth Victims of Human Trafficking - Workgroup Revisions
and Reports**

This bill requires specified entities, by October 1, 2018, to submit an independent report regarding human trafficking to the Workgroup to Study Safe Harbor Policy for Youth Victims of Human Trafficking and the University of Maryland School of Social Work Child Sex Trafficking Initiative. By January 1, 2019, the Child Sex Trafficking Initiative must submit a report that summarizes the reported information to the Governor and the General Assembly. The bill also adds a representative of a Child Advocacy Center to the workgroup and requires the workgroup to establish a subcommittee to consider specified recommendations on the provision of statewide services for youth victims of human trafficking. **The bill takes effect June 1, 2018.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill's reporting requirements can likely be handled with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Local Effect: The bill's reporting requirements can likely be handled with existing budgeted resources. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: By October 1, 2018, the Department of Human Services (DHS), the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, the Department of Juvenile Services, each local law enforcement agency, each local department of social services, and each Children's Advocacy Center must submit an independent report to the workgroup and the

Child Sex Trafficking Initiative. The report must include (1) a description of any protocols and procedures used by the entity when working with survivors of human trafficking; (2) any referral source within the entity's jurisdiction, as specified; (3) the number of human trafficking cases handled by the entity in 2016 and 2017, and as available, 2018, and the gender, age, race, and ethnicity of each individual; and (4) any identified gaps in available services or needs related to victims of child human trafficking.

The subcommittee established within the workgroup must consider recommendations on the provision of statewide services for youth victims of human trafficking, including:

- compiling existing information on and identifying the needs of youth victims of human trafficking, including identifying the public- and private-sector programs and resources available to meet these needs;
- identifying gaps in public- and private-sector programs and resources available to meet the needs of youth victims of human trafficking; and
- methods of collecting data to identify youth victims of human trafficking in the State.

The subcommittee must include two members of the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force.

Current Law/Background: Chapter 91 of 2015 established the Workgroup to Study Safe Harbor Policy for Youth Victims of Human Trafficking. The workgroup, chaired by the Secretary of State, was tasked with various responsibilities relating to human trafficking, including making recommendations regarding legislation to address the provision of services and legal protections for youth victims of human trafficking in the State. The workgroup is scheduled to terminate on June 30, 2019.

The Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force was formed in 2007 by the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Attorney General of Maryland, and the State's Attorney for Baltimore City to serve as the lead investigative, prosecutorial, and victim services coordinating body for anti-human trafficking activity in the State.

The Child Sex Trafficking Initiative is a partnership between the School of Social Work and DHS to address the issue of sex trafficking among youth involved with child welfare. Among other duties, it works to improve victim identification through the creation and statewide implementation of a screening tool to identify trafficked and at-risk youth.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1494 (Delegate Morales, *et al.*) - Judiciary.

Information Source(s): Secretary of State; University of Maryland; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 27, 2018
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