

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 91

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JULY 1, 2018

Sponsored by:
Senator JOSEPH PENNACCHIO
District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Urges New Jersey residents not to travel to the Dominican Republic unless the country takes appropriate measures against child sex tourism.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** urging New Jersey residents not to travel
2 to the Dominican Republic unless the country takes appropriate
3 measures against child sex tourism.
4
5 **WHEREAS**, Six million tourists a year visit the Dominican Republic,
6 attracted by its beaches, mountains, and historical sites; and
7 **WHEREAS**, The Dominican Republic is the most visited destination in
8 the Caribbean; and
9 **WHEREAS**, Prostitution is legal in the Dominican Republic, and the
10 country has also become known as a center for sex tourism; and
11 **WHEREAS**, In recent years, human trafficking and child sexual
12 exploitation in the Dominican Republic, driven by demand from
13 tourists, has been recognized as a serious problem; and
14 **WHEREAS**, A 2015 report by the group International Justice Mission
15 stated that one in four sex workers in the Dominican Republic on
16 street corners and beaches and in parks was under age 18; and
17 **WHEREAS**, In a report issued in January 2018, Maud de Boer-
18 Buquichhio, the United Nations special rapporteur on the sale and
19 sexual exploitation of children, stated that the Dominican Republic
20 is a known destination for child sex tourism; and
21 **WHEREAS**, Ms. de Boer-Buquichhio reported that one particular
22 location, the municipality of Sosúa, is a reputed “paradise” for the
23 commission of sex crimes; and
24 **WHEREAS**, Ms. de Boer-Buquichhio further reported that the local
25 authorities in Sosúa feel overwhelmed by the problem of child
26 sexual exploitation and feel that they lack the support of the central
27 authorities in preventing and combatting it; and
28 **WHEREAS**, Ms. de Boer-Buquichhio reported that the problem is made
29 worse by the alleged connivance and corruption of the local
30 authorities, including the police; and
31 **WHEREAS**, The United States Department of State reports that the
32 Dominican Republic is a source, transit, and destination country for
33 men, women, and children subjected to sex trafficking and forced
34 labor, and that the government of the Dominican Republic does not
35 fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of
36 trafficking; and
37 **WHEREAS**, The State Department recommends that the Dominican
38 Republic vigorously prosecute sex trafficking offenses and convict
39 and punish offenders involved in sex trafficking, especially
40 government employees who are complicit in these crimes; and
41 **WHEREAS**, The State Department further recommends that the
42 Dominican Republic make increased efforts to protect sex
43 trafficking victims; and
44 **WHEREAS**, Unless and until the government of the Dominican
45 Republic takes these steps, it would be appropriate for the residents
46 of New Jersey to avoid traveling to the country; now, therefore,
47
48 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

1 1. The Senate urges the residents of New Jersey not to travel to
2 the Dominican Republic unless and until the country's government
3 takes appropriate steps, as verified by the United States Department
4 of State, to prosecute child sex trafficking offenses, convict and
5 punish offenders involved in child sex trafficking, and increase its
6 efforts to protect child sex trafficking victims.

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8 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
9 shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the New
10 Jersey Department of State and the United States Department of
11 State.

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14 STATEMENT
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16 This resolution urges New Jersey residents not to travel to the
17 Dominican Republic unless the country takes appropriate measures
18 against child sex tourism. Six million tourists a year visit the
19 Dominican Republic, attracted by its beaches, mountains, and
20 historical sites. The Dominican Republic is the most visited
21 destination in the Caribbean. Prostitution is legal in the Dominican
22 Republic, and the country has also become known as a center for
23 sex tourism. In recent years, human trafficking and child sexual
24 exploitation in the Dominican Republic, driven by demand from
25 tourists, has been recognized as a serious problem. A 2015 report
26 by the group International Justice Mission stated that one in four
27 sex workers in the Dominican Republic on street corners and
28 beaches and in parks was under age 18.

29 In a report issued in January 2018, Maud de Boer-Buquichhio,
30 the United Nations special rapporteur on the sale and sexual
31 exploitation of children, stated that the Dominican Republic is a
32 known destination for child sex tourism. Ms. de Boer-Buquichhio
33 reported that one particular location, the municipality of Sosúa, is a
34 reputed "paradise" for the commission of sex crimes. Ms. de Boer-
35 Buquichhio further reported that the local authorities in Sosúa feel
36 overwhelmed by the problem of child sexual exploitation and feel
37 that they lack the support of the central authorities in preventing
38 and combatting it. She reported that the problem is made worse by
39 the alleged connivance and corruption of the local authorities,
40 including the police.

41 The United States Department of State reports that the
42 Dominican Republic is a source, transit, and destination country for
43 men, women, and children subjected to sex trafficking and forced
44 labor, and that the government of the Dominican Republic does not
45 fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of
46 trafficking. The State Department recommends that the Dominican
47 Republic vigorously prosecute sex trafficking offenses and convict
48 and punish offenders involved in sex trafficking, especially

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1 government employees who are complicit in these crimes. The State
2 Department further recommends that the Dominican Republic make
3 increased efforts to protect sex trafficking victims.

4 Unless and until the government of the Dominican Republic
5 takes these steps, as verified by the United States Department of
6 State, the residents of New Jersey are urged to refrain from travel to
7 the country.