

ASSEMBLY, No. 1728

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT

District 29 (Essex)

Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON

District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)

Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT

District 31 (Hudson)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywomen Jimenez, Haider, Assemblyman McClellan and

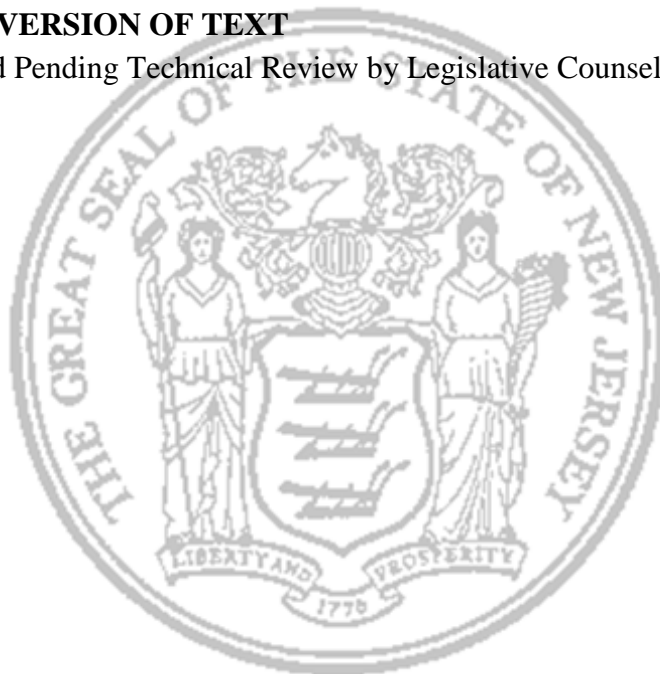
Assemblywoman Timberlake

SYNOPSIS

Expands duties of Commission on Human Trafficking to prevent human trafficking in women and children of color.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/10/2022)

1 AN ACT concerning human trafficking, and amending P.L.2013,
2 c.51.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

6

7 1. Section 1 of P.L.2013, c.51 (C.52:17B-237) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 1. a. There is hereby created, in the Division of Criminal Justice
10 in the Department of Law and Public Safety, a commission to be
11 known as the Commission on Human Trafficking, consisting of 15
12 members as follows: the Attorney General, or his designee; the
13 Commissioner of Children and Families, or his designee; the
14 Commissioner of Human Services, or his designee; a county
15 prosecutor, appointed by the Governor based upon the
16 recommendation of the County Prosecutors Association of the State
17 of New Jersey; one member of the New Jersey Human Trafficking
18 Task Force established within the Department of Law and Public
19 Safety, designated by the Attorney General; two public members
20 appointed by the Governor based upon the recommendation of the
21 Senate President, one representing law enforcement and one
22 representing a victim's assistance organization; one public member
23 appointed by the Governor based upon the recommendation of the
24 Senate Minority Leader representing either a non-profit health care
25 facility or mental health services; two public members appointed by
26 the Governor based upon the recommendation of the Speaker of the
27 General Assembly, one representing law enforcement and one
28 representing a victim's assistance organization; one public member
29 appointed by the Governor based upon the recommendation of the
30 Assembly Minority Leader representing either a non-profit health
31 care facility or mental health services; and four public members
32 appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be a representative
33 of a child advocacy organization concerning missing, abducted, or
34 exploited children, and one of whom shall be a human trafficking
35 survivor. All public members shall have experience with, possess a
36 background in, or demonstrate a specialized knowledge of, the
37 legal, policy, educational, social, or psychological aspects of human
38 trafficking.

39 b. (1) Of the public members first appointed:

40 (a) the following shall serve for a term of three years: one
41 member appointed upon the recommendation of the Senate
42 President; one member appointed upon the recommendation of the
43 Speaker of the General Assembly; and two members appointed by
44 the Governor; and

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 (b) the following shall serve for a term of two years: one
2 member appointed upon the recommendation of the Senate
3 President; one member appointed upon the recommendation of the
4 Speaker of the General Assembly; each member appointed upon the
5 recommendation of the Senate and Assembly Minority Leaders; and
6 two members appointed by the Governor.

7 (c) Upon the conclusion of the initial terms, each public member
8 shall be appointed for a term of three years.

9 (2) Each member appointed shall hold office for the term of
10 appointment and until a successor shall have been appointed and
11 qualified.

12 (3) Any vacancy in the membership of the commission shall be
13 filled by appointment in the same manner as the original
14 appointment was made.

15 c. (1) The commission shall organize upon the appointment of a
16 majority of its authorized membership. The members shall elect
17 one of the members to serve as chair and vice-chair, and the chair
18 may appoint a secretary, who need not be a member of the
19 commission.

20 (2) The commission shall meet at those times and places within
21 the State of New Jersey as the commission shall determine. A
22 majority of the commission's authorized membership shall
23 constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business, for the
24 performance of any duty, or for the exercise of any power of the
25 commission.

26 d. The members of the commission shall serve without
27 compensation, but shall be eligible for reimbursement for necessary
28 and reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their
29 official duties within the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise
30 made available to the commission for its purposes.

31 e. The Division of Criminal Justice in the Department of Law
32 and Public Safety shall, at the direction of the Attorney General,
33 provide legal, stenographic, technical, clerical, and other staff and
34 resource assistance to the commission, and additionally the
35 commission may incur expenses as may be necessary in order to
36 perform its duties within the limits of funds appropriated or
37 otherwise made available to it for its purposes.

38 f. It shall be the duty of the commission to:

39 (1) Evaluate the existing law concerning human trafficking and
40 the enforcement thereof, conduct research and produce findings on
41 human trafficking of women and children of color, identify social
42 and racial factors that make women and children of color more
43 vulnerable to human trafficking, identify effective strategies,
44 support, and services to reduce human trafficking of women and
45 children of color, study the interactions between law enforcement
46 agencies and women and children of color who have been victims
47 of human trafficking, and to make recommendations for legislation,
48 if appropriate;

1 (2) Review existing victim assistance programs and analyze the
2 costs, organization, and availability of these services for victims of
3 human trafficking and to make recommendations for legislation, if
4 appropriate;

5 (3) Promote a coordinated response by public and private
6 resources for victims of human trafficking; and

7 (4) Develop mechanisms to promote public awareness of human
8 trafficking, victim remedies and services, and trafficking prevention
9 including the creation of a public awareness sign promoting the
10 national, 24-hour toll-free hotline telephone service on human
11 trafficking described under section 18 of P.L.2013, c.51 (C.2C:13-
12 11), and the promotion of training courses and other educational
13 materials for use by persons required under section 19 of P.L.2013,
14 c.51 (C.2C:13-12) to undergo training on the handling of and
15 response procedures for suspected human trafficking activities.

16 g. The commission shall report annually to the Governor and to
17 the Legislature, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-
18 19.1), its activities, as well as its findings and recommendations for
19 any needed new services or resources for victims of human
20 trafficking, and any proposed changes to the current law concerning
21 human trafficking.

22 (cf: P.L.2021, c.3, s.1)

23
24 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

25 26 27 STATEMENT

28
29 This bill would expand the duties of the Commission on Human
30 Trafficking. In addition to its existing duties, the Commission
31 would conduct research and produce findings on human trafficking
32 of women and children of color, identify social and racial factors
33 that make women and children of color more vulnerable to human
34 trafficking, identify effective strategies, support, and services to
35 reduce human trafficking of women and children of color, study the
36 interactions between law enforcement agencies and women and
37 children of color who have been victims of human trafficking.

38 Data provided by the National Human Trafficking Hotline
39 indicates that out of the 247 human trafficking cases reported in
40 2019 in New Jersey, 207 were female. Though studies and news
41 reports indicate that human trafficking is more rampant in
42 communities of color, there is no conclusive data on the number of
43 women and children of color trafficked in the State of New Jersey.

44 Nationally, the available data confirms that human trafficking in
45 women and children is overwhelmingly for sexual exploitation and
46 more widespread in communities of color. According to a 2011
47 study by the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics
48 (BJS), more than 80 percent of suspected incidents of human

1 trafficking investigated between January 2008 and June 2010
2 involved allegations of adult prostitution (48 percent) or the
3 prostitution or sexual exploitation of a child (40 percent). Based
4 upon cases where the race was known, 40 percent of sex trafficking
5 victims were black.