

**ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. 81**

---

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**220th LEGISLATURE**

---

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 7, 2022

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman CAROL A. MURPHY**

**District 7 (Burlington)**

**Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**Assemblyman JAY WEBBER**

**District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblymen Wirths, Karabinchak, Space, Assemblywomen Swain,  
Eulner, Piperno and Jasey**

**SYNOPSIS**

Directs SCI to examine human trafficking activity at certain places of business.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/24/2022)**

1   **A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION** directing, pursuant to section 3 of  
2   P.L.1968, c.266 (C.52:9M-3), the State Commission of  
3   Investigation to examine human trafficking activity at certain  
4   places of business.

5  
6   **WHEREAS**, The State Commission on Investigation, pursuant to  
7   section 2 of P.L.1968, c.266 (C.52:9M-2), has the broad duty and  
8   power to conduct investigations in connection with “[t]he  
9   faithful execution and effective enforcement of the laws of the  
10   State, with particular reference but not limited to organized  
11   crime and racketeering,” or “[a]ny matter concerning the public  
12   peace, public safety and public justice”; and

13   **WHEREAS**, Among the many crimes listed in N.J.S.2C:41-1 that are  
14   associated with organized crime and racketeering activity is the  
15   crime of human trafficking, section 1 of P.L.2005, c.77  
16   (C.2C:13-8), which can involve a victim being required, by  
17   means of force, fraud, or coercion, to engage in sexual activity,  
18   or to provide labor or services; and

19   **WHEREAS**, In January 2018, Polaris Project, a 501(c)(3) national  
20   nonprofit organization dedicated to combating human trafficking  
21   and offering trafficking victims assistance, issued a report titled  
22   “Human Trafficking in Illicit Massage Businesses,” which  
23   spotlighted the pervasiveness of illegal, commercial sex and  
24   potential human trafficking activity occurring in massage parlors  
25   throughout the United States, including a concentration of  
26   activity within an East Coast region comprised of New Jersey  
27   and its neighboring states; and

28   **WHEREAS**, As evidenced by the Polaris Project report, New  
29   Jersey’s regulation of massage parlors, which includes the  
30   licensing of massage and bodywork therapists, registration of  
31   employers which offer massage and bodywork therapies, and  
32   criminal history record background checks on all licensees and  
33   their employers pursuant to P.L.1999, c.19 (C.45:11-53 et seq.)  
34   and P.L.2007, c.337 (C.45:11-68 et al.), may require stronger  
35   enforcement efforts or further reforms to be more effective in  
36   addressing potential human trafficking activity taking place  
37   within massage parlors throughout the State; and

38   **WHEREAS**, The Legislature, pursuant to section 3 of P.L.1968,  
39   c.266 (C.52:9M-3), can by concurrent resolution direct the State  
40   Commission on Investigation to conduct an investigation falling  
41   within the commission’s scope of authority and to present  
42   recommendations for changes in or additions to existing law “for  
43   the more effective administration and enforcement of the law”;  
44   now, therefore,

45  
46   **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New  
47   Jersey (the Senate concurring):

1       1. The State Commission on Investigation is directed, pursuant  
2 to section 3 of P.L.1968, c.266 (C.52:9M-3), to investigate human  
3 trafficking activity at the places of business of employers of  
4 massage and bodywork therapists, which employers are subject to  
5 registration, and which therapists are subject to licensure, pursuant  
6 to P.L.1999, c.19 (C.45:11-53 et seq.) and P.L.2007, c.337  
7 (C.45:11-68 et al.).

8  
9       2. a. While conducting the investigation, the commission  
10 shall, upon the request of the Attorney General, a county  
11 prosecutor, or any other law enforcement official, cooperate with,  
12 advise, and assist the requesting official in the performance of that  
13 official's powers and duties in accordance with section 5 of  
14 P.L.1968, c.266 (C.52:9M-5).

15       b. While conducting the investigation, the commission may  
16 consult and exchange information with law enforcement officers  
17 and agencies of other states with respect to human trafficking  
18 activity of mutual concern to this and other states in accordance  
19 with section 7 of P.L.1968, c.266 (C.52:9M-7).

20       c. If, in the course of conducting the investigation, any  
21 information or evidence of a reasonable possibility of human  
22 trafficking or other criminal wrongdoing is obtained, the  
23 commission shall immediately refer the information or evidence to  
24 the Attorney General in accordance with section 8 of P.L.1968,  
25 c.266 (C.52:9M-8).

26  
27       3. a. No later than two years after the effective date of this  
28 concurrent resolution, unless delayed pursuant to subsection b. of  
29 this section at the request of the Attorney General, the commission  
30 shall issue a report to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant  
31 to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), summarizing the  
32 findings of its investigation and making recommendations for  
33 addressing human trafficking activity within massage and bodywork  
34 therapy places of business.

35       b. If the report contains any information or evidence of a  
36 reasonable possibility of human trafficking or other criminal  
37 wrongdoing, the commission shall, in accordance with section 7 of  
38 P.L.1996, c.44 (C.52:9M-8.1), give written notice to the Attorney  
39 General at least seven days prior to the intended date of issuing the  
40 report, in order to afford the Attorney General an opportunity to be  
41 heard with respect to any objections the Attorney General has with  
42 the report. The commission may then delay, at the request of the  
43 Attorney General and in accordance with that section, the issuance  
44 of the report for a period of up to 120 days.

45  
46       4. This concurrent resolution shall take effect immediately.

## STATEMENT

This concurrent resolution directs, pursuant to section 3 of P.L.1968, c.266 (C.52:9M-3), the State Commission on Investigation to examine human trafficking activity at the places of business of employers of massage and bodywork therapists. A January 2018 report, "Human Trafficking in Illicit Massage Business," by Polaris Project, a 501(c)(3) national nonprofit organization dedicated to combating human trafficking and offering trafficking victims assistance, spotlighted the pervasiveness of illegal, commercial sex and potential human trafficking activity occurring in massage parlors throughout the United States.

Although New Jersey's current regulation of massage parlors includes the licensing of massage and bodywork therapists, the registration of employers which offer massage and bodywork therapies, and criminal history record background checks for all therapists and their employers pursuant to P.L.1999, c.19 (C.45:11-53 et seq.) and P.L.2007, c.337 (C.45:11-68 et al.), the Polaris Project report evidences the possible need for stronger enforcement efforts or further reforms for the State to be more effective in addressing potential human trafficking activity taking place within such places of business.

This concurrent resolution calls for the State Commission on Investigation to issue a report no later than two years after the resolution takes effect summarizing its investigation, unless delayed at the request of the Attorney General for up to an additional 120 days pursuant to section 7 of P.L.1996, c.44 (C.52:9M-8.1), due to information or evidence contained in the report showing a reasonable possibility of human trafficking or other criminal wrongdoing. The report would also include recommendations for consideration by the Governor and Legislature for further addressing human trafficking activity within the places of business of employers of massage and bodywork therapists.