

SENATE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR **SENATE, Nos. 1270 and 2566**

with committee amendments

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: JUNE 24, 2026

The Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee reports favorably and with committee amendments Senate Bill Nos. 1270 and 2566 SCS.

As amended, the bill eliminates the statute of limitations for criminal prosecutions of human trafficking and criminal sexual contact, and eliminates the statute of limitations under which a victim of human trafficking may bring a civil suit against the perpetrator.

Currently, a prosecution for human trafficking must be commenced, by way of an indictment, within five years after the offense is committed. Also, a prosecution for criminal sexual contact, when the victim is under 18 years old, must be commenced, by way of an indictment, within five years of the victim turning 18 or within two years of the discovery of the offense, whichever is later.

Additionally, under current law, a civil suit brought by a victim of human trafficking must also be filed within five years. A civil suit may be brought against: (1) the offender; (2) all those acting in concert with that offender; (3) all those knowingly deriving a pecuniary benefit from the offense, whether or not these parties are acting in concert with the offender; and (4) all those knowingly maintaining any victim of the offense, whether or not these parties are acting in concert with the offender.

Under the bill, a criminal prosecution for human trafficking or criminal sexual contact, regardless of the age of the victim, may be commenced at any time. Also, under the bill, a civil suit for human trafficking may be filed at any time.

Finally, the bill expands the scope of defendants in a civil suit for human trafficking to include all those who derive a direct or indirect pecuniary benefit from the offense, whether or not these parties are acting in concert with the offender, knowing or in reckless disregard that the pecuniary benefit they derived was from the human trafficking offense, and all those who maintain any victim of the offense, whether or not these parties are acting in concert with the offender, knowing or in reckless disregard that the person they maintained was the victim of the human trafficking offense.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to:

(1) eliminate the statute of limitations for criminal prosecutions of criminal sexual contact;

(2) eliminate the statute of limitations for civil cases for human trafficking; and

(3) expand the scope of defendants in a civil suit for human trafficking to include all those who derive a direct or indirect pecuniary benefit from the offense, whether or not these parties are acting in concert with the offender, knowing or in reckless disregard that the pecuniary benefit they derived was from the human trafficking offense, and all those who maintain any victim of the offense, whether or not these parties are acting in concert with the offender, knowing or in reckless disregard that the person they maintained was the victim of the human trafficking offense.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Office of Legislative Services (OLS) notes that the Judiciary will incur an indeterminate increase in annual operating expenditures, as additional resources will likely have to be allocated to a potentially increased civil caseload from the elimination of the civil statute of limitations for lawsuits related to human trafficking. The OLS also anticipates collections from court filing fees to grow in tandem with the caseload.

The OLS notes that the elimination of criminal statute of limitations may result in increased prosecutions for the Department of Law and Public Safety and county prosecutors. This may lead to an increase in caseload and administrative expenses.