

ASSEMBLY, No. 5501

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MARCH 17, 2021

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 Vainieri Huttle and Jimenez

SYNOPSIS

Requires AG to establish Human Trafficking and Underserved Communities Unit.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/21/2021)

1 AN ACT concerning human trafficking and underserved
2 communities and supplementing Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. a. The Attorney General shall establish in the Division of
8 Criminal Justice in the Department of Law and Public Safety a unit
9 to be known as the Human Trafficking and Underserved
10 Communities Unit. The purpose of the unit shall be to address the
11 specific needs and vulnerabilities related to human trafficking
12 which are experienced by members of underserved communities,
13 particularly girls and women of color.

14 b. The responsibilities of the unit shall include, but not be
15 limited to:

16 (1) coordinating with the Division of State Police and municipal
17 and county law enforcement agencies to investigate cases related to
18 human trafficking in underserved communities;

19 (2) coordinating with relevant government entities, including,
20 but not limited to the Victims of Crime Compensation Office,
21 established pursuant to section 2 of P.L.2007, c.95 (C.52:4B-3.2)
22 and the Commission on Human Trafficking, established pursuant to
23 section 1 of P.L.2013, c.51 (C.52:17B-237), and community-based
24 organizations to create and administer programs to connect victims
25 to appropriate and effective information and resources; and

26 (3) collecting and maintaining data related to human trafficking
27 cases and trends concerning members of underserved communities.

28
29 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of fourth month
30 next following enactment, except that the Attorney General may
31 take any anticipatory action in advance of that date as shall be
32 necessary for the implementation of this act.

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35 STATEMENT

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37 This bill requires the Attorney General to establish a unit to
38 address human trafficking related to members of underserved
39 communities.

40 Under the bill, the Attorney General would be required to
41 establish in the Division of Criminal Justice in the Department of
42 Law and Public Safety a unit to be known as the Human Trafficking
43 and Underserved Communities Unit. The purpose of the unit would
44 be to address the specific needs and vulnerabilities related to
45 human trafficking which are experienced by members of
46 underserved communities, particularly girls and women of color.

47 The bill provides that the responsibilities of the unit would
48 include, but not be limited to:

- 1 (1) coordinating with the Division of State Police and municipal
2 and county law enforcement agencies to investigate cases related to
3 human trafficking in underserved communities;
- 4 (2) coordinating with relevant government entities, including,
5 but not limited to the Victims of Crime Compensation Office and
6 the Commission on Human Trafficking), and community-based
7 organizations to create and administer programs to connect victims
8 to appropriate and effective information and resources; and
- 9 (3) collecting and maintaining data related to human trafficking
10 cases and trends concerning members of underserved communities.