

SENATE, No. 1863

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 24, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator VIN GOPAL

District 11 (Monmouth)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Cunningham

SYNOPSIS

Expands duty of Commission on Human Trafficking to include studying connection between human trafficking and illicit massage parlor businesses.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 4/26/2021)

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

3

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

6

7 1. (New section) The Legislature finds and declares that:

8 a. The Polaris Project issued a report in 2018 entitled “Human
9 Trafficking in Illicit Massage Businesses.”

10 b. Information for the report was gathered from various sources
11 including published reports, law enforcement, interviews with
12 victims and cases reported to the National Human Trafficking
13 Hotline;

14 c. New Jersey has proximity to New York and the I-95 corridor
15 which runs along the Eastern Seaboard and may be a thoroughfare
16 for moving trafficking victims;

17 d. Press reports indicate the Polaris Project has identified
18 allegedly illegal massage parlors offering sexual services in this
19 State;

20 e. New Jersey has an existing commission known as the
21 Commission on Human Trafficking which is created in the Division
22 of Criminal Justice in the Department of Law and Public Safety;

23 f. It is fitting and appropriate to charge this body with further
24 study on this issue within New Jersey.

25

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

28 1. a. There is hereby created, in the Division of Criminal
29 Justice in the Department of Law and Public Safety, a commission
30 to be known as the Commission on Human Trafficking, consisting
31 of 15 members as follows: the Attorney General, or his designee;
32 the Commissioner of Children and Families, or his designee; the
33 Commissioner of Human Services, or his designee; a county
34 prosecutor, appointed by the Governor based upon the
35 recommendation of the County Prosecutors Association of the State
36 of New Jersey; one member of the New Jersey Human Trafficking
37 Task Force established within the Department of Law and Public
38 Safety, designated by the Attorney General; two public members
39 appointed by the Governor based upon the recommendation of the
40 Senate President, one representing law enforcement and one
41 representing a victim's assistance organization; one public member
42 appointed by the Governor based upon the recommendation of the
43 Senate Minority Leader representing either a non-profit health care
44 facility or mental health services; two public members appointed by
45 the Governor based upon the recommendation of the Speaker of the

**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 General Assembly, one representing law enforcement and one
2 representing a victim's assistance organization; one public member
3 appointed by the Governor based upon the recommendation of the
4 Assembly Minority Leader representing either a non-profit health
5 care facility or mental health services; and four public members
6 appointed by the Governor, one of whom shall be a representative
7 of a child advocacy organization concerning missing, abducted, or
8 exploited children, and one of whom shall be a human trafficking
9 survivor. All public members shall have experience with, possess a
10 background in, or demonstrate a specialized knowledge of, the
11 legal, policy, educational, social, or psychological aspects of human
12 trafficking.

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

14 (a) the following shall serve for a term of three years: one
15 member appointed upon the recommendation of the Senate
16 President; one member appointed upon the recommendation of the
17 Speaker of the General Assembly; and two members appointed by
18 the Governor; and

19 (b) the following shall serve for a term of two years: one
20 member appointed upon the recommendation of the Senate
21 President; one member appointed upon the recommendation of the
22 Speaker of the General Assembly; each member appointed upon the
23 recommendation of the Senate and Assembly Minority Leaders; and
24 two members appointed by the Governor.

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

27 (2) Each member appointed shall hold office for the term of
28 appointment and until a successor shall have been appointed and
29 qualified.

30 (3) Any vacancy in the membership of the commission shall be
31 filled by appointment in the same manner as the original
32 appointment was made.

33 c. (1) The commission shall organize upon the appointment of
34 a majority of its authorized membership. The members shall elect
35 one of the members to serve as chair and vice-chair, and the chair
36 may appoint a secretary, who need not be a member of the
37 commission.

38 (2) The commission shall meet at those times and places within
39 the State of New Jersey as the commission shall determine. A
40 majority of the commission's authorized membership shall
41 constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business, for the
42 performance of any duty, or for the exercise of any power of the
43 commission.

44 d. The members of the commission shall serve without
45 compensation, but shall be eligible for reimbursement for necessary
46 and reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their
47 official duties within the limits of funds appropriated or otherwise
48 made available to the commission for its purposes.

1 e. The Division of Criminal Justice in the Department of Law
2 and Public Safety shall, at the direction of the Attorney General,
3 provide legal, stenographic, technical, clerical, and other staff and
4 resource assistance to the commission, and additionally the
5 commission may incur expenses as may be necessary in order to
6 perform its duties within the limits of funds appropriated or
7 otherwise made available to it for its purposes.

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

9 (1) Evaluate the existing law concerning human trafficking and
10 the enforcement thereof, study the connection between human
11 trafficking and illicit massage parlor businesses, and to make
12 recommendations for legislation, if appropriate;

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

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

19 (4) Develop mechanisms to promote public awareness of human
20 trafficking, including promotion of the national, 24-hour toll-free
21 hotline telephone service on human trafficking described under
22 section 18 of P.L.2013, c.51 (C.2C:13-11), and the promotion of
23 training courses and other educational materials for use by persons
24 required under section 19 of P.L.2013, c.51 (C.2C:13-12) to
25 undergo training on the handling of and response procedures for
26 suspected human trafficking activities.

27 g. The commission shall report annually to the Governor and to
28 the Legislature, pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-
29 19.1), its activities, as well as its findings and recommendations for
30 any needed new services or resources for victims of human
31 trafficking, and any proposed changes to the current law concerning
32 human trafficking.

33 (cf: P.L.2013, c.51, s.1)

34
35 3. This act shall take effect immediately.
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38 STATEMENT

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40 This bill would expand the duty of the Commission on Human
41 Trafficking, created by P.L.2013, c.51, to include studying the
42 connection between human trafficking and illicit massage parlor
43 businesses. A published report by the Polaris Project, a group
44 advocating on behalf of trafficking victims, indicates that massage
45 parlors, including legitimate ones, may be contributing significantly
46 to human trafficking trade in New Jersey.