
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 253 Session of
2010

INTRODUCED BY GREENLEAF, ORIE, FONTANA, ERICKSON, TARTAGLIONE,
LEACH, STACK, O'PAKE, M. WHITE, PILEGGI, WASHINGTON,
WILLIAMS, DINNIMAN, ALLOWAY AND RAFFERTY, FEBRUARY 26, 2010

REFERRED TO JUDICIARY, FEBRUARY 26, 2010

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Joint State Government Commission to establish an
2 advisory committee to study the problem of human trafficking
3 and to make a report to the Senate on the issue of human
4 trafficking, including a proposed State plan for the
5 prevention of human trafficking and any recommendations for
6 changes in State law, policies and procedures.

7 WHEREAS, Human trafficking is defined by Federal law to
8 include:

9 (1) sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is
10 induced by force, fraud or coercion, or in which the person
11 induced to perform such an act is under 18 years of age; and

12 (2) the recruitment, harboring, transportation,
13 provision or obtaining of a person for labor or services,
14 through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose
15 of involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage or slavery;

16 and

17 WHEREAS, More generally, human trafficking is the modern-day
18 practice of slavery and is one of the fastest growing criminal
19 industries in the world, generating billions of dollars by using

1 force, fraud and coercion to subject United States citizens and
2 foreign nationals, both minors and adults, to sexual or labor
3 exploitation; and

4 WHEREAS, Human trafficking does not always involve movement
5 of victims but may encompass both transnational trafficking that
6 crosses borders and domestic or internal trafficking that occurs
7 within a country or a state; and

8 WHEREAS, According to Pennsylvania law enforcement,
9 prosecutors and numerous advocacy organizations at the national,
10 state and local levels, there is both sex trafficking and labor
11 trafficking in Pennsylvania and victims include children and
12 adults, United States citizens and foreign nationals; and

13 WHEREAS, Examples of sex trafficking include:

14 (1) runaway teenage girls who are preyed upon by pimps;

15 (2) adult women who are held against their will and
16 forced into prostitution; and

17 (3) women and girls from other countries who are
18 promised jobs as waitresses but instead are trafficked for
19 prostitution;

20 and

21 WHEREAS, Victims of labor trafficking are typically found in
22 domestic servitude, agriculture, service industries and other
23 low-wage labor industries, where they are threatened, beaten,
24 raped, starved, chained or locked up, isolated and manipulated
25 or psychologically tortured; and

26 WHEREAS, In 2006 the General Assembly enacted 18 Pa.C.S. Ch.
27 30 (relating to trafficking of persons), making human
28 trafficking a second degree felony, unless the perpetrator
29 injures the victim or the victim is under 18 years of age, in
30 which case it is a first degree felony, and including forfeiture

1 provisions; and

2 WHEREAS, Since enactment, the 2006 law has not been utilized
3 because:

4 (1) there is a lack of knowledge by community members
5 and law enforcement on how to identify and respond to human
6 trafficking cases;

7 (2) there is no centralized venue to convey information
8 on responding to the crime of human trafficking for law
9 enforcement, victim service providers and the public; and

10 (3) traffickers keep victims highly isolated from
11 society, attempting to ensure that the victims do not find
12 out where to turn for help;

13 and

14 WHEREAS, While there are existing coalitions to combat human
15 trafficking in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and York, there is a
16 need to create a comprehensive Statewide approach to ending this
17 brutal crime through the prosecution of traffickers, the
18 identification of victims, providing services and significantly
19 enhancing community awareness; therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the Senate direct the Joint State Government
21 Commission to establish an advisory committee to study the
22 problem of human trafficking; to propose policies and procedures
23 to assist in the prevention and prosecution of human
24 trafficking; and to make recommendations on how to strengthen
25 State and local efforts to prevent human trafficking, protect
26 and assist human trafficking victims and prosecute offenders;
27 and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the advisory committee be comprised of
29 approximately 30 members and include persons representing all
30 relevant aspects of the criminal justice and social welfare

1 systems, including representatives of governmental agencies and
2 nongovernmental organizations, especially those specializing in
3 human trafficking, those representing communities
4 disproportionately affected by human trafficking, agencies
5 devoted to child services and runaway services and academic
6 researchers dedicated to the subject of human trafficking; and
7 be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the advisory committee make a report to the
9 Senate on the issue of human trafficking, including a proposed
10 State plan for the prevention of human trafficking and any
11 recommendations for changes in State law, policies and
12 procedures; and be it further

13 RESOLVED, That the advisory committee shall report to the
14 Senate no later than two years from the date that this
15 resolution is adopted.