



Ensuring that child sex trafficking victims receive quality care and services in the State of Georgia

Overview of Senate Bill 8 and House Bill 244

Child sex trafficking is a form of modern day slavery where people profit from the control and exploitation of others. It is one of the fastest growing criminal enterprises in the world, which generates approximately \$99 billion in profits each year (ILO, 2014). Nationally, human trafficking is a \$9.8 billion industry that affects people from all backgrounds. It victimizes 100,000 American children annually, forcing them into the for-profit sex slavery industry (National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, 2010). Furthermore, it is estimated that between 244,000 and 325,000 children are at risk every year in the United States (Estes and Weiner, 2001).

Both Senate Bill 8 and House Bill 244, and their accompanying resolutions represent the next step for the state of Georgia towards addressing the heinous crime of child sex trafficking. This key piece of legislation seeks to increase funds and services for child victims and allow the state to implement additional penalties for criminals, including forfeiture and the Sexual Offender registry mandate.

This legislation seeks to:

- Extend the statute of limitations for the victims of domestic minor sex trafficking to file civil actions against their traffickers to age 25
- Impose a statewide regulatory fee on adult entertainment establishments
- Establish a new Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children Fund Commission
 - the fund will consist of money collected through new fees on adult entertainment businesses and additional fines imposed by courts for the crime of trafficking minors
 - the commission will disburse money from a dedicated fund to organizations providing needed services to victims of domestic minor sex trafficking
 - the establishment of the commission with a dedicated fund requires a Constitutional amendment to be passed this session and ratified by voters in the November 2016 general election (*see the related resolutions*)
- Expand forfeiture and seizure laws related to sex trafficking and related offenses- would allow any proceeds from trafficking, and the vehicles operated by a person who is guilty of trafficking, to be subject to forfeiture to the state
- Amend the State Sexual Offender Registry to now include convicted offenders of trafficking a person for sexual servitude
- Require the development of a statewide plan for the coordinated delivery of services to sexually exploited and trafficked children