

LEGISLATIVE FACT SHEET  
**MANDATORY HUMAN TRAFFICKING TRAINING  
AND OFFENDER REGISTRY AMENDMENTS**

**Sponsor: Angela Romero**

**Why is this Legislation Needed?**

- In 2019, this body recognized the need for education to prevent more children from becoming victims of human trafficking. This body legislated mandatory biennial training in schools for human trafficking prevention and awareness. But no such parallel education exists for law enforcement to recognize and recover those already victimized.
- In 2017, this body added sexual extortion and aggravated sexual extortion convictions to the definition of a sex offender. The code already accounted for sexual assault, sexual exploitation of a minor, and aggravated exploitation of prostitution. However, no language exists defining a sex trafficker as a sex offender, a labor trafficker as a kidnap offender, or a human smuggler of a minor as a kidnap offender.
- In 2019, this body added a safe harbor provision for children engaged in commercial sex or in sexual solicitation to reflect our modern understanding that these children were not criminals but rather exploited by criminals. However, this provision was added as a prostitution subsection, leading to continued public confusion driven by ongoing court and media reporting of trafficked and exploited children as “child prostitutes” to the public.

**What does this Legislation do?**

- **MANDATORY HUMAN TRAFFICKING TRAINING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT:** Adds human trafficking to the sexual assault and sexual abuse training for law enforcement code section. Instructs police officers to be trained in recognizing and responding to human trafficking.
- **KIDNAP AND SEX OFFENDER REGISTRY UPDATE:** Amends sex offender definition to include persons convicted of any sex trafficking offense and kidnap offender definition to include persons convicted of labor trafficking or human smuggling of a minor.
- **SAFE HARBOR FOR CHILDREN ENGAGED IN COMMERCIAL SEX OR IN SEXUAL SOLICITATION:** Clarifies scope of safe harbor provision to prevent harboring unrelated criminal activity and shifts the subsection from Part 13 (Prostitution) into Part 14 (Safe Harbor).
- **HUMAN TRAFFICKING CODE FIXES:** Drops redundant “forced” from human trafficking code sections; removes references to victims “held against their will;” refers instead to language of “force, fraud, and coercion” in the statute; adjusts vacatur statute to match the language used by the juvenile court.