

2026 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 83

BY SENATOR EDMONDS

SCHOOLS. Provides for training to prevent human trafficking at public elementary and secondary schools and provides for victims' services. (gov sig)

AN ACT

To amend and reenact the introductory paragraph of R.S. 46:51(16), the introductory paragraph of (16)(b), 2161, and 2161.1 and Children's Code Art. 610(A)(4)(b) and (E)(4) and to enact R.S. 17:419.5, 3996(B)(92), and R.S. 46:51(16)(c), relative to human trafficking; to require each city, parish or other local public school board to adopt a policy to provide for training with respect to the prevention of human trafficking; to provide for training to identify victims; to provide for designation of certain school employees for certain purposes; to provide for assistance and services for child and youth victims of human trafficking; to provide for procedures; to provide for reporting; to provide for definitions; to provide for an effective date; and to provide for related matters.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

Section 1. R.S. 17:419.5 and 3996(B)(92) are hereby enacted to read as follows:

§419.5. Human trafficking prevention; training in elementary and secondary schools

A. Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, each city, parish, or other local public school board shall adopt a policy on human trafficking victim

1 identification and reporting and require each school to designate at least one
2 employee to receive annual advanced training on human trafficking. The
3 designated school employee shall be a school counselor, mental health
4 professional, or a school administrator.

5 B. The training instruction shall be administered to designated
6 employees by live, in-person training or by an online course. The state
7 Department of Education, in conjunction with the governor's office of human
8 trafficking, shall provide information on available training curriculums to
9 school boards. The training instruction shall at minimum define the crime of
10 human trafficking, differentiate between the types of human trafficking,
11 recognize common indicators of human trafficking, discuss barriers and best
12 practices for victim identification, reinforce reporting requirements, and review
13 resources and services that are available to human trafficking victims in this
14 state.

15 C. A record of the designated employees and the completion of the course
16 shall be retained by each school. Each city, parish, or other local public school
17 board shall document and verify that each school is in compliance with this
18 Section.

19 * * *

20 §3996. Charter schools; exemptions; requirements

21 * * *

22 B. Notwithstanding any state law, rule, or regulation to the contrary and
23 except as may be otherwise specifically provided for in an approved charter, a
24 charter school established and operated in accordance with the provisions of this
25 Chapter and its approved charter and the school's officers and employees shall be
26 exempt from all statutory mandates or other statutory requirements that are
27 applicable to public schools and to public school officers and employees except for
28 the following laws otherwise applicable to public schools with the same grades:

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(92) Human trafficking prevention training, R.S. 17:419.5.

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Section 2. The introductory paragraph of R.S. 46:51(16), the introductory paragraph of (16)(b), 2161, and 2161.1 are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 46:51(16)(c) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

§51. Duties of the department

* * *

(16) Make care coordination ~~and advocacy~~ services available for child victims of child ~~sex~~ **human** trafficking **and advocacy services available for child and youth victims of human trafficking** as follows:

* * *

(b) Based on the needs of the child **or youth** and the ~~child's~~ **their** family, advocacy services may include:

* * *

(c) Unless otherwise indicated, the following definitions shall apply to this Section:

(i) "Child" means a person who is under the age of eighteen years of age.

(ii) "Youth" means an individual who is at least eighteen years of age but is not more than twenty-one years of age.

(iii) "Human trafficking" means the perpetration or attempted perpetration of the trafficking of children for sexual purposes, pursuant to R.S. 14:46.3, trafficking related to commercial sexual activity, pursuant to R.S. 14:46.2, or debt bondage or labor trafficking, pursuant to R.S. 14:46.2.

* * *

§2161. Human trafficking victims; services plan; children

A. With respect to children found to be victims of human trafficking, ~~the Department of Children and Family Services, in conjunction with the Louisiana Department of Health,~~ shall develop a plan for the delivery of **a child is eligible for specialized** services ~~to~~ **for** victims of human trafficking.

1 **(1) The child shall be reported to the Louisiana Department of Children**
2 **and Family Services reporting hotline, in accordance with Children's Code**
3 **Article 610(A)(4)(b). The department shall make available care coordination**
4 **and advocacy services to serve the child, pursuant to R.S. 46:51(16).**

5 **(2) State agencies with custodial care of children shall ensure that a child**
6 **in their care who is determined to be a victim of human trafficking shall have**
7 **full access to care coordination and advocacy services.**

8 **B.** Such ~~plan~~ **services for victims of human trafficking** shall include **those**
9 **services provided in R.S. 46:2161.1.** ~~provisions for:~~

10 ~~(1) Identifying victims of human trafficking in Louisiana.~~

11 ~~(2) Assisting victims of human trafficking with applying for federal and state~~
12 ~~benefits and services to which they may be entitled.~~

13 ~~(3) Coordinating the delivery of health, mental health, housing, education, job~~
14 ~~training, child care, victims' compensation, legal, and other services to victims of~~
15 ~~human trafficking.~~

16 ~~(4) Preparing and disseminating educational and training programs and~~
17 ~~materials to increase awareness of human trafficking and services available to~~
18 ~~victims of human trafficking among local departments of social services, public and~~
19 ~~private agencies and service providers, and the public.~~

20 ~~(5) Referring child victims to the appropriate community-based services for~~
21 ~~victims of human trafficking.~~

22 ~~(6) Assisting victims of human trafficking with family reunification or return~~
23 ~~to their place of origin, if the victims so desire.~~

24 ~~BC.~~ In developing the ~~plan,~~ **a comprehensive strategy to prevent human**
25 **trafficking and address the needs of human trafficking victims, the governor's**
26 **office of human trafficking shall coordinate with** ~~the departments~~ **Department of**
27 **Children and Family Services and the office of juvenile justice, and** shall work
28 together with such other state and federal agencies, public and private entities, and
29 other stakeholders as they deem appropriate.

1 ~~ED.~~(1) Each private entity that provides services to victims pursuant to the
2 provisions of this Section shall submit to the governor's office of human trafficking
3 prevention ~~and to the Department of Children and Family Services~~ an annual report
4 on their operations including information on the services offered, geographic areas
5 served, the number of persons served, and individual status updates on each person
6 served. This information shall not include the name, address, or other identifying
7 information of the person served. The governor's office of human trafficking
8 prevention shall compile the data from all of the reports submitted pursuant to the
9 provisions of this Subsection and shall provide this information to the legislature on
10 or before the first day of February each year.

11 (2) Each statewide and local law enforcement entity that investigates cases
12 of human trafficking or related sexual offenses and that provides services to victims
13 pursuant to the provisions of this Section shall submit to the governor's office of
14 human trafficking prevention ~~and to the Department of Children and Family Services~~
15 an annual report on their operations including information on type of investigation,
16 outcome of the investigation, and any services offered to victims, and demographic
17 information related to the case and services offered **and any additional information**
18 **as requested.**

19 (3) Each district attorney who prosecutes cases of human trafficking or
20 related sexual offenses or who provides services to victims pursuant to the provisions
21 of this Section shall submit to the governor's office of human trafficking prevention
22 and to the Department of Children and Family Services an annual report on their
23 operations including the prosecuting agency's name, parish, disposition of case,
24 statute under which the offense was prosecuted, sentencing date, restitution ordered,
25 restitution paid, value of assets from civil asset forfeiture, ~~and~~ any services offered
26 to victims, **and any additional information as requested.**

27 §2161.1. Human trafficking victims services plan; adults

28 A. With respect to any person ~~referred to the Department of Children and~~
29 ~~Family Services~~ who is eighteen years of age or older and who is found to be a

1 victim of human trafficking ~~in which the trafficking activity included commercial~~
2 ~~sexual activity or any sexual conduct constituting a crime under the laws of this state,~~
3 ~~the department shall refer the person~~ **shall be provided information on any**
4 **treatment or specialized services for human trafficking victims or referred** to
5 the appropriate department, agency, or entity to provide the person with the
6 following:

7 (1) Assistance in applying for federal, ~~and state,~~ **and other** benefits and
8 services to which the victim may be entitled.

9 (2) Coordination of the delivery of health care, mental health care, housing,
10 education, job training, child care, victims' compensation, legal, and other services
11 available to victims of human **trafficking, including** ~~or~~ sex trafficking.

12 (3) Referral to the appropriate community-based services to the extent that
13 such services are available.

14 (4) Assistance with family reunification or returning ~~to the victim's~~ **victim**
15 **to their** place of origin, if the victim so desires.

16 B. In coordinating these services for the victim, the ~~department~~ **the**
17 **governor's office of human trafficking** shall work together with such other state
18 and federal agencies, public and private entities, and other stakeholders as they deem
19 appropriate **to implement a comprehensive strategy to prevent human trafficking**
20 **and address the needs of human trafficking victims.**

21 C.(1) Each private entity that provides services to victims pursuant to the
22 provisions of this Section shall submit to the governor's office of human trafficking
23 prevention ~~and to the Department of Children and Family Services~~ an annual report
24 on their operations including information on the services offered, training or
25 certifications received specific to human trafficking, geographic areas served, the
26 number of persons served, and individual status updates on each person served. This
27 information shall not include the name, address, or other identifying information of
28 the person served. The governor's office of human trafficking prevention shall
29 compile the data from all of the reports submitted pursuant to the provisions of this

1 Subsection and shall provide this information to the legislature on or before the first
2 day of February each year.

3 (2) Each statewide and local law enforcement entity that investigates cases
4 of human trafficking or related sexual offenses and that provides services to victims
5 pursuant to the provisions of this Section shall submit to the governor's office of
6 human trafficking prevention ~~and to the Department of Children and Family Services~~
7 an annual report on their operations including information on the type of
8 investigation, **the** outcome of the investigation, ~~and~~ any services offered to victims,
9 ~~and any~~ demographic information related to the case and services offered, **and any**
10 **additional information as requested.**

11 (3) Each district attorney who prosecutes cases of human trafficking or
12 related sexual offenses or who provides services to victims pursuant to the provisions
13 of this Section shall submit to the governor's office of human trafficking prevention
14 and to the Department of Children and Family Services an annual report on their
15 operations including the prosecuting agency's name, parish, disposition of case,
16 statute under which the offense was prosecuted, sentencing date, restitution ordered,
17 restitution paid, value of assets from civil asset forfeiture, ~~and~~ any services offered
18 to victims **and any additional information requested.**

19 Section 3. Children's Code Art. 610(A)(4)(b) and (E)(4) are hereby amended and
20 reenacted to read as follows:

21 Art. 610. Reporting procedure; reports to the legislature and the United States

22 Department of Defense Family Advocacy Program

23 A. * * *

24 (4) Reports to the department shall be made as follows:

25 * * *

26 (b) If a report involves alleged ~~sex~~ **human** trafficking, all mandatory
27 reporters shall report via the hotline telephone number to the department regardless
28 of whether there is alleged parental or caretaker culpability.

29 * * *

1 E. * * *

2 (4) The department shall communicate as soon as possible all reports
3 involving alleged child victims of ~~sex~~ **human** trafficking to the Louisiana State
4 Police for referral to the appropriate local law enforcement agency for investigation
5 or other action as appropriate.

6 * * *

7 Section 4. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not
8 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature
9 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If
10 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become
11 effective on the day following such approval.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Senate Legislative Services. The keyword, summary, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

DIGEST

SB 83 Original 2026 Regular Session Edmonds

Proposed law provides that, beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, each city, parish or other local public school board and each public charter school board is to adopt a policy for human trafficking victim prevention, identification, reporting, and assistance for victims.

Proposed law requires that each public school designate a school counselor or school administrator to receive advanced annual training on human trafficking prevention.

Proposed law provides that the training may be in-person or online and the La. Dept. of Education, in conjunction with the governor's office of human trafficking, shall provide information on available training curriculums to school boards. Proposed law provides that the training instruction is to help identify victims and available resources and assistance.

Proposed law requires that the designated school employee and the completion of training requirements be retained by each school and reported to the school boards for both traditional public schools and public charter schools.

Present law provides that the Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS), in conjunction with the La. Dept. of Health (LDH), is to develop a plan for identifying minor children who are victims of sex trafficking and to coordinate education, healthcare, housing, government benefits, and specialized services for victims of sex trafficking.

Proposed law retains present law and extends victim services to include those young adults who are between 18 and 21 years of age and transfers from DCFS and LDH to the governor's office of human trafficking the task to identify victims and coordinates benefits for them. Proposed law also changes the term "sex trafficking" to "human trafficking".

Proposed law defines "human trafficking" as trafficking of children for sexual purposes and

trafficking related to commercial sexual activity, as well as debt bondage or labor trafficking.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 46:51(16)(intro para), (16)(b)(intro para), 2161, and 2161.1 and Ch.C. Art. 610(A)(4)(b) and (E)(4); adds R.S. 17:419.5, 3996(B)(92), and R.S. 46:51(16)(c))