
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5883

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2015 Regular Session

By Senate Law & Justice (originally sponsored by Senators Kohl-Welles, Padden, Keiser, Conway, Chase, and Hasegawa)

1 AN ACT Relating to human trafficking informational posters in
2 public restrooms; adding a new section to chapter 47.38 RCW; and
3 creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature has long been
6 committed to increasing access to support services for human
7 trafficking victims and promoting awareness of human trafficking
8 throughout Washington state. In 2002, Washington was the first state
9 to work on human trafficking by enacting new laws and by creating an
10 antitrafficking task force. In 2003, Washington was the first state
11 to enact a law making human trafficking a crime.

12 Since 2002 Washington's legislature has enacted thirty-eight laws
13 to combat human trafficking. In 2013 and 2014, Washington received
14 top marks from two leading nongovernmental organizations for the
15 strength of its antitrafficking laws. The polaris project gave
16 Washington a perfect score of ten and Washington received an "A"
17 report card from shared hope international's protected innocence
18 challenge. In light of the 2010 winter Olympics taking place in
19 Vancouver, British Columbia, the legislature enacted RCW 47.38.080,
20 permitting an approved nonprofit to place informational human
21 trafficking posters in restrooms located in rest areas along

1 Interstate 5. Sporting events, such as the winter Olympics or the
2 upcoming 2015 United States open golf tournament at Chambers Bay,
3 provide lucrative opportunities for human traffickers to exploit
4 adults and children for labor and sexual services. The legislature
5 finds that an effective way to combat human trafficking is to
6 increase awareness of human trafficking for both victims and the
7 general public alike as well as who and how to contact for help and
8 support services, for both victims and the general public alike.

9 (2) Human trafficking data are primarily obtained through a
10 hotline reporting system in which victims and witnesses can report
11 cases of human trafficking over the phone. Since 2007, there have
12 been one thousand eight hundred fifty human trafficking calls made
13 through the human trafficking victim hotline system in Washington
14 state, and a total of four hundred thirty-two human trafficking cases
15 reported. It is the intent of the legislature to facilitate an even
16 wider scope of communication with human trafficking victims and
17 witnesses by requiring human trafficking information to be posted in
18 all public restrooms.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 47.38
20 RCW to read as follows:

21 (1) Every establishment that maintains restrooms for use by the
22 public must, upon availability of the model notice as described in
23 subsection (2) of this section, post a notice that complies with the
24 requirements of this section in a conspicuous place within all
25 restrooms of the establishment in clear view of the public and
26 employees. The OCVA may work with businesses and other establishments
27 and with human trafficking victim advocates to adopt policies for the
28 placement of such notices.

29 (2)(a) The model notice to be posted pursuant to subsection (1)
30 of this section may be in a variety of languages and include
31 toll-free telephone numbers a person may call for assistance,
32 including the number for the national human trafficking resource
33 center and the number for the Washington state office of crime
34 victims advocacy.

35 (b) The office of crime victims advocacy shall review and approve
36 the initial form and content of the model notice to ensure the notice
37 is appropriate for public display and likely to be an effective
38 communication to reach human trafficking victims. The office of crime

1 victims advocacy shall review the model notice on a yearly basis to
2 ensure the information provided remains accurate.

3 (3) The cost of production, printing, and posting of the model
4 notices shall be paid by a participating nonprofit at no cost to the
5 state.

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