

1 State of Arkansas

As Engrossed: S3/10/25

2 95th General Assembly

## A Bill

3 Regular Session, 2025

HOUSE BILL 1609

4

5 By: Representatives Lundstrum, K. Moore, Henley, Vaught, Duke, Barker, Bentley, A. Brown, K. Brown,

6 R. Burkes, Cavenaugh, Crawford, Dalby, J. Mayberry, McAlindon

7 By: Senators B. Davis, Irvin, J. English

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### For An Act To Be Entitled

10 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING HUMAN TRAFFICKING;

11 TO CREATE AN ENHANCED PENALTY FOR RECRUITING

12 TRAFFICKED PERSONS FROM CERTAIN PLACES; TO DECLARE AN

13 EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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### Subtitle

17 TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING HUMAN

18 TRAFFICKING; TO CREATE AN ENHANCED

19 PENALTY FOR RECRUITING TRAFFICKED

20 PERSONS FROM CERTAIN PLACES; AND TO

21 DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

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23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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25 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 5, Chapter 18, Subchapter 1, is amended

26 to add an additional section to read as follows:

27 5-18-108. Enhanced liability – Certain conditions.

28 A person convicted of an offense under this chapter may be subject to  
29 an enhanced sentence of an additional term of imprisonment not to exceed five  
30 (5) years if the person recruited, enticed, or obtained a trafficked person  
31 from:

32 (1) A shelter or facility operating as a residential treatment  
33 center that serves runaway youth, foster children, the homeless, or other  
34 persons at risk of being subjected to human trafficking, domestic violence,  
35 or sexual assault;

36 (2) A correctional facility while the trafficked person was



1 confined in the correctional facility;

2 (3) An adoptive, foster, or provisional foster home as defined  
3 by § 9-28-402;

4 (4) A childcare institution as defined by § 9-28-402; or

5 (5) A detention facility, forestry camp, training school, or  
6 other facility operating primarily for the detention of children who are  
7 determined by a court to be delinquent.

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9 SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the  
10 General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that human trafficking continues to  
11 be a heightened concern for the state; that it is necessary to create  
12 additional mechanisms to further deter human trafficking in the state; and  
13 that this act is immediately necessary to punish criminals who commit human  
14 trafficking against the state’s most vulnerable populations. Therefore, an  
15 emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for  
16 the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become  
17 effective on:

18 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

19 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,  
20 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the  
21 bill; or

22 (3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is  
23 overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

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25 /s/Lundstrum

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28 **APPROVED: 3/20/25**  
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