

1 State of Arkansas
2 95th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2025
4

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1609

5 By: Representatives Lundstrum, K. Moore, Henley, Vaught, Duke, Barker, Bentley, A. Brown, K. Brown,
6 R. Burkes, Cavanaugh, Crawford, Dalby, J. Mayberry, McAlindon
7 By: Senators B. Davis, Irvin, J. English
8

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.
14

Subtitle

16 TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING HUMAN
17 TRAFFICKING; TO CREATE AN ENHANCED
18 PENALTY FOR RECRUITING TRAFFICKED
19 PERSONS FROM CERTAIN PLACES; AND TO
20 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:

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

36 (2) Recruited, enticed, or obtained a trafficked person from a



1 correctional facility while the trafficked person was confined in the
2 facility.

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

13 (1) The date of its approval by the Governor;
14 (2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor,
15 the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the
16 bill; or

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

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