

2018 Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 630

BY REPRESENTATIVE HUNTER

HUMAN TRAFFICKING: Provides relative to the use of debt bondage to coerce a person to provide services or labor

1 AN ACT

2 To enact R.S. 14:46.2(C)(2)(b)(iii), relative to human trafficking; to provide relative to the
3 use of debt bondage to coerce a person to provide services or labor; to amend the
4 definition of debt bondage; and to provide for related matters.

5 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

6 Section 1. R.S. 14:46.2(C)(2)(b)(iii) is hereby enacted to read as follows:

7 §46.2. Human trafficking

8 * * *

9 C. For purposes of this Section:

10 * * *

11 (2) "Debt bondage" means inducing an individual to provide any of the
12 following:

13 * * *

14 (b) Labor or services in payment toward or satisfaction of a real or purported
15 debt if ~~either~~ any of the following occur:

16 * * *

17 (iii) The wages paid for the labor or services are substantially below market
18 wages for workers performing the same or similar labor or services.

19 * * *

DIGEST

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HB 630 Original

2018 Regular Session

Hunter

Abstract: Amends the definition of "debt bondage" when used to coerce a person to provide services or labor to include the payment of wages for services or labor below market wages for workers performing the same or similar labor or services.

Present law provides that it shall be unlawful for any person to knowingly recruit, harbor, transport, provide, solicit, receive, isolate, entice, obtain, or maintain the use of another person through fraud, force, or coercion to provide services or labor.

For purposes of present law, "fraud, force, or coercion" is defined to include certain acts including but not limited to the use of debt bondage or civil or criminal fraud.

Present law defines "debt bondage" as inducing an individual to provide any of the following:

- (1) Commercial sexual activity in payment toward or satisfaction of a real or purported debt.
- (2) Labor or services in payment toward or satisfaction of a real or purported debt if either of the following occur:
 - (a) The reasonable value of the labor or services provided is not applied toward the liquidation of the debt.
 - (b) The length of the labor or services is not limited and the nature of the labor or services is not defined.

Proposed law retains present law and adds that the payment of wages for labor or services that are substantially below market wages for workers performing the same or similar labor or services is also considered debt bondage.

(Adds R.S. 14:46.2(C)(2)(b)(iii))