

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), 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), R.S. 46:51(16)(c), and Children's Code Art. 508.1, 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 victims of human trafficking; to provide for procedures; to provide for investigations; 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), 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 as follows:

\* \* \*

**(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) "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.**

\* \* \*

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

**(2) State agencies with custodial care of children shall ensure that a child in their care who is determined to be a victim of human trafficking shall have**

1 **full access to care coordination and advocacy services.**

2 **B.** Such ~~plan~~ **services for victims of human trafficking** shall include  
3 provisions for:

4 (1) Identifying victims of human trafficking in Louisiana.

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

7 (3) Coordinating the delivery of health, mental health, housing, education, job  
8 training, child care, victims' compensation, legal, and other services to victims of  
9 human trafficking.

10 (4) Preparing and disseminating educational and training programs and  
11 materials to increase awareness of human trafficking and services available to  
12 victims of human trafficking among local departments of social services, public and  
13 private agencies and service providers, and the public.

14 (5) Referring child victims to the appropriate community-based services for  
15 victims of human trafficking.

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

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

24 **CD.**(1) Each private entity that provides services to victims pursuant to the  
25 provisions of this Section shall submit to the governor's office of human trafficking  
26 prevention ~~and to the Department of Children and Family Services~~ an annual report  
27 on their operations including information on the services offered, geographic areas  
28 served, the number of persons served, and individual status updates on each person  
29 served. This information shall not include the name, address, or other identifying

1 information of the person served. The governor's office of human trafficking  
2 prevention shall compile the data from all of the reports submitted pursuant to the  
3 provisions of this Subsection and shall provide this information to the legislature on  
4 or before the first day of February each year.

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

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

21 §2161.1. Human trafficking victims services plan; adults

22 A. With respect to any person ~~referred to the Department of Children and~~  
23 ~~Family Services~~ who is eighteen years of age or older and who is found to be a  
24 victim of human trafficking ~~in which the trafficking activity included commercial~~  
25 ~~sexual activity or any sexual conduct constituting a crime under the laws of this state,~~  
26 ~~the department shall refer the person~~ **shall be provided information on any**  
27 **treatment or specialized services for human trafficking victims or referred** to  
28 the appropriate department, agency, or entity to provide the person with the  
29 following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 (2) Each statewide and local law enforcement entity that investigates cases  
27 of human trafficking or related sexual offenses and that provides services to victims  
28 pursuant to the provisions of this Section shall submit to the governor's office of  
29 human trafficking prevention ~~and to the Department of Children and Family Services~~

1 an annual report on their operations including information on the type of  
2 investigation, the outcome of the investigation, ~~and~~ any services offered to victims,  
3 ~~and~~ any demographic information related to the case and services offered, and any  
4 additional information as requested.

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

13 Section 3. Children's Code Art. 610(A)(4)(b) and (E)(4) are hereby amended and  
14 reenacted and Children's Code Art.508.1 is hereby enacted to read as follows:

15 Art. 508.1. Multidisciplinary investigative team; care coordination

16 A. Care coordination teams shall comply with the rules of  
17 multidisciplinary investigative teams in accordance with this Part.

18 B. Care coordination teams are responsible for the investigation and  
19 multidisciplinary coordination of child trafficking cases, accepted by the team  
20 in compliance with the team's protocols. Each team shall develop and institute  
21 interagency protocols in accordance with Article 510 of this Part.

22 C.(1) A care coordination team may obtain all information necessary to  
23 perform its official duties from any public agency, department or other  
24 organization, including material otherwise made confidential or privileged. Any  
25 confidential or privileged material or verbal information obtained by a team  
26 member during an investigation shall be disclosed only as necessary to other  
27 team members, and shall not be disclosed to any agency or individual not  
28 represented on the multidisciplinary team unless otherwise required by law.

29 (2) Any public or private department, agency, or organization may share

1 with a care coordination entity all information that is made confidential by law  
 2 when it is needed to provide or secure services under this Chapter. Confidential  
 3 information shared with or provided to a care coordination entity remains the  
 4 property of the providing organization.

5 D. "Care coordination entity" or "care coordination team" means  
 6 entities that are authorized by Department of Children and Family Services  
 7 through a procurement contract to provide care coordination services and  
 8 specialized multidisciplinary teams for victims of human trafficking, pursuant  
 9 to R.S. 46:51.

10 \* \* \*

11 Art. 610. Reporting procedure; reports to the legislature and the United States  
 12 Department of Defense Family Advocacy Program

13 A. \* \* \*

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

15 \* \* \*

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

19 \* \* \*

20 E. \* \* \*

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

25 \* \* \*

26 Section 4. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not  
 27 signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature  
 28 by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If  
 29 vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become

1 effective on the day following such approval.

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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)]

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DIGEST

SB 83 Reengrossed

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.

Proposed law 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.

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 the delivery of services to children who are victims of human trafficking. The plan shall include coordinating the delivery of education, health care, housing, government benefits, and specialized services for victims of human trafficking.

Proposed law transfers from DCFS and LDH to the governor's office of human trafficking the task of developing a comprehensive strategy to prevent human trafficking and address the needs of human trafficking victims.

Proposed law requires care coordination teams handling child trafficking cases to comply with multidisciplinary investigative team rules and to develop interagency protocols for case coordination. Proposed law defines "care coordination teams" as those authorized by the DCFS to provide specialized multidisciplinary services to victims of human trafficking.

Proposed law provides that care coordination teams are authorized to obtain confidential and privileged information from public and private entities as necessary to perform their duties, while limiting disclosure of such information to team members unless otherwise required by law. Proposed law further provides that entities may share otherwise confidential information with care coordination teams for service provision purposes and that such information remains the property of the originating entity.

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

(Amends R.S. 46:51(16)(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), R.S. 46:51(16)(c), and Ch.C.Art.508.1)

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Education to the original bill

1. Adds care coordination teams.
2. Makes technical changes.

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Finance to the engrossed bill

1. Remove extended victim advocacy services from young adults who are between 18 and 21 years of age.
2. Remove definition of "youth".
3. Remove debt bondage and labor trafficking from definition of "human trafficking".
4. Make technical changes.