

DIGEST

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SB 83 Reengrossed

2026 Regular Session

Edmonds

Proposed law requires, beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, each school board (including charter school boards) to adopt a policy on human trafficking victim identification and reporting and to require each school to designate at least one employee to receive annual advanced training on human trafficking. Requires the state Department of Education, in conjunction with the governor's office of human trafficking, to provide information on curricula to school boards and provides specific instruction components. Requires each school to retain records relative to proposed law and requires school boards to document and verify that each school is in compliance with proposed law.

Present law requires the Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to make care coordination and advocacy services available for child victims of child sex trafficking. Proposed law adds a requirement that DCFS also make advocacy services available for youth victims of human trafficking.

Proposed law provides for the following defined terms:

- (1) "Child" means a person who is under the age of 18.
- (2) "Human trafficking" means the perpetration or attempted perpetration of the trafficking of children for sexual purposes, trafficking related to commercial sexual activity, or debt bondage or labor trafficking.
- (3) "Youth" means an individual who is 18-21 years of age.

Present law, with respect to children found to be victims of human trafficking, requires DCFS, in conjunction with the La. Dept. of Health (LDH), to develop a plan for the delivery of services to victims of human trafficking. Proposed law instead provides that a child is eligible for specialized services for victims of human trafficking.

Proposed law requires that the child shall be reported to the DCFS reporting hotline, in accordance with present law. Requires DCFS to make available care coordination and advocacy services to serve the child or youth victim of human trafficking.

Proposed law requires 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 full access to care coordination and advocacy services.

Present law requires the DCFS plan to include provisions for the following:

- (1) Identifying victims of human trafficking in La.
- (2) Assisting victims of with applying for benefits and services.
- (3) Coordinating the delivery of health, mental health, housing, education, job training, child care, victims' compensation, legal, and other services to victims.
- (4) Preparing and disseminating programs and materials to increase awareness of human trafficking and services available to victims among local departments of social services, public and private agencies and service providers, and the public.
- (5) Referring child victims to the appropriate community-based services.

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

Proposed law removes present law and instead requires that services for victims include those services provided in present law and proposed law (R.S. 17:2161.1).

Present law requires DCFS and LDH, in developing the plan, to work together with state and federal agencies, public and private entities, and other stakeholders. Proposed law instead requires, in developing a comprehensive strategy to prevent human trafficking and address the needs of victims, the governor's office of human traffic to coordinate with DCFS and the office of juvenile justice and work with the entities listed in present law.

Present law requires certain private entities, law enforcement entities, and district attorneys to submit an annual report to the governor's office of human trafficking prevention and DCFS on its operations relative to human trafficking. Proposed law removes DCFS as a recipient of each report.

Present law provides with respect to any person referred to DCFS who is 18 or older and found to be a victim of human trafficking in which the trafficking activity included commercial sexual activity or any sexual conduct constituting a crime, DCFS shall refer the person to the appropriate department, agency, or entity for certain services. Proposed law instead requires that such a person, regardless of the circumstances of the human trafficking, be provided information on any treatment or specialized services for victims or referred as provided in present law.

Present law, in coordinating these victim services, requires DCFS to work with state and federal agencies, public and private entities, and other stakeholders. Proposed law instead requires the governor's office of human trafficking to work with those listed in present law to implement a comprehensive strategy to prevent human trafficking and address the needs of human trafficking victims.

Present law requires certain private entities, law enforcement entities, and district attorneys to submit an annual report to the governor's office of human trafficking prevention and DCFS on its operations relative to human trafficking. Proposed law removes DCFS as a recipient of each report except the district attorney report.

Proposed law:

- (1) Defines "care coordination entity" or "care coordination team" as an entity authorized by DCFS through a procurement contract to provide care coordination services and specialized multidisciplinary teams for victims of human trafficking.
- (2) Requires care coordination teams to comply with the rules of multidisciplinary investigative teams.
- (3) Provides that care coordination teams are responsible for the investigation and multidisciplinary coordination of child trafficking cases, accepted by the team in compliance with the team's protocols, and requires each team to develop and institute interagency protocols.
- (4) Authorizes a care coordination team to obtain all information necessary to perform its official duties from any public agency, department or other organization, including material otherwise made confidential or privileged.
- (5) Authorizes any public or private department, agency, or organization to share with a care coordination entity all information that is made confidential by law when it is needed to provide or secure services.

Proposed law changes references in present law (Ch.C. Art. 610) from "sex trafficking" to "human trafficking".

Proposed law provides that the implementation of proposed law that requires DCFS to make certain services available to children and youth victims of human trafficking is subject to the appropriation of funds by the legislature for this purpose.

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

(Amends R.S. 46:51(16)(intro. para.) and (b)(intro.para.), 2161, and 2161.1 and Ch.C. Art. 610(A)(4)(b) and (E)(4); Adds R.S. 17:419.5 and 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.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

The Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Education to the reengrossed bill:

1. Add a requirement that DCFS make advocacy services available for youth victims of human trafficking.
2. Add debt bondage or labor trafficking to the proposed law definition of "human trafficking."
3. Add a definition of "youth" (a person 18-21 years of age).
4. Add that the implementation of proposed law requiring DCFS to make certain services available to children and youth victims of human trafficking is subject to the appropriation of funds by the legislature.