



|| SENATE OF PENNSYLVANIA BILL SUMMARY

Senate Bill 851 Printer's No. 965

Prime Sponsor: Senator Greenleaf
Committee: Judiciary

SYNOPSIS:

This bill amends Title 19 (Crimes and Offenses) and Title 42 (Judiciary and Judicial Procedure) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to ensure that juvenile victims of human trafficking are not prosecuted in the juvenile justice system and that human services are made available to them.

SUMMARY:

The bill requires the Department of Human Services to develop a statewide protocol for the provision of specialized services to sexually exploited children, including safe long-term housing, access to education, life-skills training, trauma therapy, treatment for drug and alcohol dependency, and medical and dental care. The bill authorizes the Department of Human Services to operate or contract with appropriate agencies to operate safe houses for juvenile victims of human trafficking.

If a law enforcement officer determines after a reasonable detention for investigative purposes that a person is under age 18 and is a victim of human trafficking, the juvenile victim will be immune from prosecution for prostitution and related offenses. Related offenses include criminal trespass, disorderly conduct, loitering, obstructing highways and public passages, and relating false identification to law enforcement authorities.

The bill provides for reimbursement under certain circumstances for the removal of tattoos that are used in branding juvenile victims of human trafficking. The bill creates the Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children Fund to provide grants to state and local government agencies for victims' services and to reduce demand for sexually exploited children.

Effective Date: This bill will take effect in sixty days.

BILL HISTORY:

There is no legislative history for this bill during the current session.

Prepared by: Cawley 6/29/2015