

FACT SHEET: SB 44 (2023)

Ensuring Victims of Human Trafficking Have Access to Services



VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY
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THE INSTITUTE TO ADDRESS
COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

INTRODUCED BY: Senators Dush (R), Collett (D), Phillips-Hill (R), Rothman (R), Costa (D), Bartolotta (R), Cappelletti (D), Hughes (D), Stefano (R), and Aument (R)

Every dollar a sex trafficker makes comes out of the wallet of a sex buyer. The root cause of sex trafficking is the demand for commercial sex. **SB 44** is a bi-partisan bill that proposes amendments to Pennsylvania's human trafficking statute that clearly signal the Commonwealth's legislative intent to combat the demand for sex trafficking, particularly sex trafficking of minors. Key proposed changes are highlighted below.

Clarifies Existing Law

- Amends the definitions for “commercial sex act,” “sexual servitude,” and “victim of human trafficking” to provide additional clarity.
- Makes the “victim of human trafficking” definition in § 6702 relating to Domestic and Sexual Violence Victim Address Confidentiality consistent with the amendment in the trafficking statute.

Amends Existing Law to Focus on Demand

- Adds the word “patronizes” to the sex trafficking statute, making it explicitly clear that those who buy sex from human trafficking victims may be arrested, prosecuted, and convicted as sex trafficking offenders when merited by the facts of a particular case.
- Amends § 3013 to add an offense of patronizing an individual who is under 18 years of age, causing the individual to engage in a commercial sex act. No knowledge requirement for the offense is required, providing another tool to combat demand particularly where the victim is a minor.
 - A first offense to be graded as a second degree felony
 - A second or subsequent offense to be graded as a first degree felony

Expands Eligibility to Certain Services

- Amends the persons eligible to apply to participate in the Domestic and Sexual Violence Victim Address Confidentiality Program to include victims of § 3013, patronizing a victim of sexual servitude. Under current law victims of § 3011 and § 3012 are already eligible.