



2021 Bill Highlights

As of 5/3/2021

SB 554 & HB 1303 – Human Trafficking Education in Schools

Sponsors: Senator Thurston, Jr. (D- Fort Lauderdale), & Representative Williams (D-Broward)

Outcome: SB 554 and HB 1303 died in their first committee.

Target Population: Children in grades 7 through 12, educators, Florida public schools.

Summary: Puts into law the requirement for health education instruction in public schools to include information about the danger and signs of human trafficking as well as awareness of state resources, strategies to reduce the risk of human trafficking, and ways to safely seek assistance. Adds prevention of abuse and addiction to substances such as alcohol, nicotine, and drugs to the curriculum.

How the Bills Differ:

- Bills are identical

Impact: Florida ranks 3rd in the nation in calls to the National Human Trafficking Hotline. Minors are especially vulnerable to exploitation. Teaching children to recognize the signs of human trafficking is critical to addressing the issue in Florida. Nationally, one out of every five children are at risk of being sexually exploited. In Florida, this equates to approximately 552,000 children at risk.

Providing children with the tools to identify potential trafficking situations and to avoid becoming victims of exploitation is a crucial step in combating the prevalence of human trafficking and helping victims gain access to the services they need. In order to be the most successful, this training should be required to include the signs and red flags of human trafficking and utilize trauma informed, best practices for educating children.

The Children's Campaign supports educating children on the dangers of human trafficking, which is crucial to giving them the resources they need to protect themselves and their peers from becoming victims of trafficking.

Effective Date: July 1st, 2021

