



This Bill Analysis reflects the contents of the bill as it was presented in committee.

SENATE BILL 548: Strengthen Human Trafficking Laws/Studies.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Judiciary. If favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date:	June 12, 2017
Introduced by:	Sens. Randleman, Daniel, Brock	Prepared by:	Bill Patterson
Analysis of:	First Edition		Committee Co-Counsel

OVERVIEW: Senate Bill 548 would increase the felony level for human trafficking, require licensure of establishments providing massage and bodywork therapy services, and make it a Class 1 misdemeanor to employ any person to provide massage and bodywork therapy services to the public who is not licensed to provide such services and is not exempt from licensure requirements. The bill would require public-awareness signs containing information about the National Human Trafficking Resource hotline to be displayed at specified establishments and locations. The bill would also direct the Department of Health and Human Services to study the feasibility of providing human trafficking training to health care providers, emergency medical providers, and relevant first responders, and would direct the State Board of Education to develop a policy requiring training of educators and support personnel at least once every three years about sexual abuse and sex trafficking of minors.

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1 of the bill would increase the existing Class F felony of human trafficking with an adult victim to a Class C felony, and would increase the current Class C felony of human trafficking with a minor victim to a Class B1 felony.

Section 5 would establish standards for and require licensure of establishments providing massage and bodywork therapy services to the public. These businesses would be regulated by the North Carolina Board of Massage and Bodywork Therapy. Sexual activity in any licensed establishment would be prohibited. Any person employing a person who is not licensed or exempt from licensure to provide massage and bodywork therapy services to the public would be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

"Massage and bodywork therapy establishments" subject to regulation would not include the following:

- On-site massage performed at the customer's location.
- Devices such as chairs that are operated by the customer.
- Establishments within a hospital, nursing home or similar facility licensed by DHHS.
- Massage and bodywork therapy provided by a sole practitioner.
- Student clinics operated by a Board-approved school or massage and bodywork therapy programs offered by accredited community colleges or colleges or universities.

Under following sections of the bill, the specified establishments or locations would be required to display a public awareness sign created and provided by the North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission that contains the National Human Trafficking Resource hotline information:

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Senate Bill 548

Page 2

- **Section 2:** Adult establishments (adult bookstores, adult motion picture theatres, adult mini motion picture theatres, adult live entertainment businesses, and massage businesses)
- **Section 3:** ABC permittees
- **Section 4:** Owners, operators, or agents in charge of a business engaged in prostitution, gambling, illegal sales of alcoholic beverages, controlled substances, or obscene or lewd matter
- **Section 6:** Hospitals
- **Section 7:** State DOT transportation stations, rest areas, and welcome centers
- **Section 8:** State Department of Commerce operated employment or job training centers

Section 9 would direct the Department of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission, to study the feasibility of training health care providers, emergency medical providers, and relevant first responders in human trafficking identification and response and preventative tools and measures.

Section 10 would require the State Board of Education, in consultation with the North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission, to develop a policy requiring local education agencies and charter schools to provide training at least once every three years to educators and support personnel concerning sexual abuse and sex trafficking of minors.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Section 5 of the act would become effective October 1, 2017, and the remainder of the act would be effective when it becomes law.