

Stricken language would be deleted from and underlined language would be added to present law.

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

As Engrossed: S3/10/25

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1609

By: Representatives Lundstrum, K. Moore, Henley, Vaught, Duke, Barker, Bentley, A. Brown, K. Brown, R. Burkes, Cavenaugh, Crawford, Dalby, J. Mayberry, McAlindon

By: Senators B. Davis, Irvin, J. English

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING HUMAN TRAFFICKING;
TO CREATE AN ENHANCED PENALTY FOR RECRUITING
TRAFFICKED PERSONS FROM CERTAIN PLACES; TO DECLARE AN
EMERGENCY; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING HUMAN
TRAFFICKING; TO CREATE AN ENHANCED
PENALTY FOR RECRUITING TRAFFICKED
PERSONS FROM CERTAIN PLACES; AND TO
DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 5, Chapter 18, Subchapter 1, is amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

5-18-108. Enhanced liability – Certain conditions.

A person convicted of an offense under this chapter may be subject to an enhanced sentence of an additional term of imprisonment not to exceed five (5) years if the person recruited, enticed, or obtained a trafficked person from:

(1) A shelter or facility operating as a residential treatment center that serves runaway youth, foster children, the homeless, or other persons at risk of being subjected to human trafficking, domestic violence, or sexual assault;

(2) A correctional facility while the trafficked person was



confined in the correctional facility;

(3) An adoptive, foster, or provisional foster home as defined by § 9-28-402;

(4) A childcare institution as defined by § 9-28-402; or

(5) A detention facility, forestry camp, training school, or other facility operating primarily for the detention of children who are determined by a court to be delinquent.

SECTION 2. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas that human trafficking continues to be a heightened concern for the state; that it is necessary to create additional mechanisms to further deter human trafficking in the state; and that this act is immediately necessary to punish criminals who commit human trafficking against the state's most vulnerable populations. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist, and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, and safety shall become effective on:

(1) The date of its approval by the Governor;

(2) If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill; or

(3) If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, the date the last house overrides the veto.

/s/Lundstrum