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LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS
54th Legislature, 1st Session, 2019

Bill Number HM85 **Sponsor** Trujillo, C.
Tracking Number .214943.1 **Committee Referrals** HEC
Short Title Human Trafficking Awareness in Schools
Analyst Terrazas **Original Date** 3/12/19
Last Updated _____

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis of Memorial

House Memorial 85 (HM85) requests the New Mexico Human Trafficking Task Force to review ways and make recommendations to incorporate curricula into middle schools and high schools to educate children on human trafficking awareness across the state, explore methods that introduce and support human trafficking awareness programs in middle schools and high schools, and seek input from nationwide experts and successful examples of human trafficking awareness programs from outside the state. HM85 requests the secretary of the Public Education Department (PED) to assist the task force with developing a strategic plan to provide statewide human trafficking awareness in middle schools and high schools. PED would be requested to encourage and inform superintendents and middle school and high school principals about the need for human trafficking awareness programs. HM85 requests the New Mexico Attorney General to provide the task force and its education subcommittee with staff support.

The memorial requests the task force to present its findings and recommendations to the appropriate interim legislative committees by October 1, 2019 and its strategic plan to LESC by January 1, 2020. The secretary of PED is requested to make the strategic plan publicly available by February 1, 2020.

FISCAL IMPACT

Memorials do not contain appropriations.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

HM85 requests the task force to include in its strategic plan a statement of purpose that describes the task force's objectives, strategies to achieve the task force's objectives, and a timeline for achieving those objectives. The memorial requests the strategic plan include expanding human trafficking awareness educational opportunities to every middle school and high school within five years, developing rigorous standards and curriculum guidelines for human trafficking awareness education, defining high-quality professional learning for teachers to teach human trafficking

awareness, an ongoing evaluation process overseen by PED, proposed methods that incorporate the principles of the strategic plan into the state’s public education system as a whole, and ensuring long-term sustainability.

The New Mexico Human Trafficking Task Force is a federally funded collaborative task force consisting of local, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies, prosecutorial agencies, and service providers from around the state. The sole purpose of the task force is to implement a collaborative approach to combating all forms of human trafficking within the state, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking, of foreign nationals and U.S. citizens of all sexes and ages.

The U.S. Department of Education developed the *Human Trafficking in America’s Schools* guide to provide up-to-date information for school personnel on how to address and respond to human trafficking. It outlines how human trafficking impacts schools; the indicators of possible child trafficking; and policies, protocols, and partnerships that can be developed to address and prevent the exploitation of children.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The secretary of PED would be requested to assist the task force with the development of a strategic plan for providing statewide human trafficking awareness in middle schools and high schools. PED would be requested to encourage and inform superintendents and middle school and high school principals about the need for human trafficking awareness programs.

OTHER SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

New Mexico law defines human trafficking as a person knowingly recruiting, soliciting, enticing, transporting or obtaining by any means another person with the intent or knowledge that force, fraud or coercion will be used to subject the person to labor, services or commercial sexual activity; recruiting, soliciting, enticing, transporting or obtaining by any means a person under the age of 18 years with the intent or knowledge that the person will be caused to engage in commercial sexual activity; or benefiting, financially or by receiving anything of value, from the labor, services or commercial sexual activity of another person with the knowledge that force, fraud or coercion was used to obtain the labor, services or commercial sexual activity.

RELATED BILLS

Duplicate of SM118, Human Trafficking Awareness in Schools

Relates to HJM10, Child Protective Services Task Force, which requests the Children, Youth and Families Department (CYFD) to convene a child protective services task force to improve the safety and wellbeing of children in the care of the child protective services system by improving the relationship between CYFD and resources families.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LESC Files

DT/mc/mhg