

HOUSE BILL NO. 118

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
THIRTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVES VANCE, Underwood

Introduced: 2/26/25

Referred: Judiciary, Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act establishing the Council on Human and Sex Trafficking; and providing for an**
2 **effective date."**

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 *** Section 1.** AS 39.25.110 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

5 (46) the executive director of the Council on Human and Sex
6 Trafficking employed under AS 44.41.155.

7 *** Sec. 2.** AS 39.50.200(b) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

8 (65) Council on Human and Sex Trafficking (AS 44.41.150).

9 *** Sec. 3.** AS 44.41 is amended by adding new sections to read:

10 **Article 3. Council on Human and Sex Trafficking.**

11 **Sec. 44.41.150. Council on Human and Sex Trafficking.** The Council on
12 Human and Sex Trafficking is created in the Department of Public Safety. The
13 purpose of the council is to provide planning and coordination of programs specific to
14 victim services, education, public awareness, data collection and dissemination, and

1 reducing demand for human and sex trafficking.

2 **Sec. 44.41.155. Duties.** (a) The council shall

3 (1) elect one of its members as chair;

4 (2) develop and implement a standardized data collection system on
5 human and sex trafficking, including methods for synthesizing and disseminating data
6 and establishing standardized definitions as necessary;

7 (3) receive and dispense state and federal money and award grants and
8 contracts from appropriations to qualified local community entities for the purpose of
9 human and sex trafficking intervention and prevention programs;

10 (4) oversee and audit qualified local community entities that receive
11 money from the council;

12 (5) coordinate and consult with the Department of Education and Early
13 Development, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Health, the
14 Department of Law, the Department of Labor and Workforce Development, the
15 Department of Family and Community Services, the Department of Public Safety,
16 other state agencies and qualified local community entities dealing with human and
17 sex trafficking, including the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, and
18 survivors of human and sex trafficking to develop educational materials and resources
19 related to, and increase public awareness of, human and sex trafficking;

20 (6) provide technical assistance as requested by the state agencies and
21 qualified local community entities listed in (5) of this subsection;

22 (7) conduct public hearings and create opportunities for public input on
23 issues relating to human and sex trafficking in the state;

24 (8) make an annual report to the governor on the activities of the
25 council, plans of the council for new services and programs, and concerns of the
26 council, including recommendations for legislation necessary to carry out the purposes
27 of AS 44.41.150 - 44.41.175; the council shall notify the legislature that the report is
28 available;

29 (9) recruit and hire an executive director to oversee the council; the
30 executive director may hire staff; the executive director is in the exempt service under
31 AS 39.25.110 and staff members are in the classified service under AS 39.25.100.

1 (b) The council may create advisory subcommittees.

2 **Sec. 44.41.160. Membership.** (a) The council consists of the following 15
3 members:

4 (1) seven members appointed by the governor as follows:

5 (A) two members who are mayors or elected officials in local
6 government;

7 (B) one member who represents a victim advocacy
8 organization;

9 (C) one member who represents an Alaska Native organization;
10 in this subparagraph, "Alaska Native organization" has the meaning given in
11 AS 18.66.020(d);

12 (D) one member who represents a local law enforcement
13 agency;

14 (E) one member who represents a faith-based community
15 organization; and

16 (F) one member who represents an organization that provides
17 direct services to the homeless;

18 (2) the chief executive officer of the Alaska Mental Health Trust
19 Authority or the chief executive officer's designee;

20 (3) the commissioner of health or the commissioner's designee;

21 (4) the attorney general or the attorney general's designee;

22 (5) the commissioner of public safety or the commissioner's designee;

23 (6) the commissioner of corrections or the commissioner's designee;

24 (7) the commissioner of education and early development or the
25 commissioner's designee;

26 (8) the commissioner of labor and workforce development or the
27 commissioner's designee; and

28 (9) the commissioner of family and community services or the
29 commissioner's designee.

30 (b) Public members of the council appointed under (a)(1) of this section serve
31 three-year terms. A public member serves at the pleasure of the governor and may not

1 serve more than two consecutive terms. The governor shall fill a vacancy of a public
2 member on the board by appointment for the unexpired portion of the vacated term.

3 (c) A person who receives compensation from or is an employee of the state or
4 a human or sex trafficking crisis intervention or prevention program may not be
5 appointed as a public member of the council.

6 **Sec. 44.41.165. Meetings and quorum.** (a) The council shall meet at least
7 quarterly by teleconference or other electronic means at times to be determined by the
8 chair. Additional meetings by teleconference or other electronic means may be called
9 by the chair. Advisory subcommittees shall meet by teleconference or other electronic
10 means. The council may hold an annual in-person meeting.

11 (b) The council may convene public meetings in person to present information
12 and receive public comment.

13 (c) Seven members of the council or a majority of filled positions, whichever
14 is fewer, constitute a quorum for conducting business.

15 **Sec. 44.41.170. Compensation and expenses.** The members of the council
16 receive no salary but are entitled to transportation expenses and per diem in
17 accordance with AS 39.20.180.

18 **Sec. 44.41.175. Definitions.** In AS 44.41.150 - 44.41.175,

19 (1) "council" means the Council on Human and Sex Trafficking;

20 (2) "human and sex trafficking" means conduct in violation of
21 AS 11.41.360, 11.41.365, or AS 11.66.110 - 11.66.130.

22 * **Sec. 4.** AS 44.66.010(a) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

23 (17) Council on Human and Sex Trafficking (AS 44.41.150) - June 30,
24 2029.

25 * **Sec. 5.** This Act takes effect July 1, 2026.