

SENATE BILL 78

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SB 215/13 – JPR

(PRE-FILED)

4lr0926

By: **Senator Forehand**

Requested: November 13, 2013

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2014

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Criminal Law – Human Trafficking – Victims Under Age 21

FOR the purpose of altering a certain provision concerning the age of a victim for purposes of certain prohibitions against felony human trafficking; and generally relating to human trafficking.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Criminal Law
Section 11–303
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2012 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Criminal Law

11–303.

- (a) (1) A person may not knowingly:
- (i) take or cause another to be taken to any place for prostitution;
 - (ii) place, cause to be placed, or harbor another in any place for prostitution;
 - (iii) persuade, induce, entice, or encourage another to be taken to or placed in any place for prostitution;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(iv) receive consideration to procure for or place in a house of prostitution or elsewhere another with the intent of causing the other to engage in prostitution or assignation;

(v) engage in a device, scheme, or continuing course of conduct intended to cause another to believe that if the other did not take part in a sexually explicit performance, the other or a third person would suffer physical restraint or serious physical harm; or

(vi) destroy, conceal, remove, confiscate, or possess an actual or purported passport, immigration document, or government identification document of another while otherwise violating or attempting to violate this subsection.

(2) A parent, guardian, or person who has permanent or temporary care or custody or responsibility for supervision of another may not consent to the taking or detention of the other for prostitution.

(b) (1) A person may not violate subsection (a) of this section involving a victim who is **[a minor] UNDER THE AGE OF 21 YEARS.**

(2) A person may not knowingly take or detain another with the intent to use force, threat, coercion, or fraud to compel the other to marry the person or a third person or perform a sexual act, sexual contact, or vaginal intercourse.

(c) (1) (i) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, a person who violates subsection (a) of this section is guilty of the misdemeanor of human trafficking and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 10 years or a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or both.

(ii) A person who violates subsection (a) of this section is subject to § 5–106(b) of the Courts Article.

(2) A person who violates subsection (b) of this section is guilty of the felony of human trafficking and on conviction is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 25 years or a fine not exceeding \$15,000 or both.

(d) A person who violates this section may be charged, tried, and sentenced in any county in or through which the person transported or attempted to transport the other.

(e) (1) A person who knowingly benefits financially or by receiving anything of value from participation in a venture that includes an act described in subsection (a) or (b) of this section is subject to the same penalties that would apply if the person had violated that subsection.

(2) A person who knowingly aids, abets, or conspires with one or more other persons to violate any subsection of this section is subject to the same penalties that apply for a violation of that subsection.

(f) It is not a defense to a prosecution under subsection (b)(1) of this section that the person did not know the age of the victim.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2014.