

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 1018 (Senator Lee)
Judicial Proceedings

Human Trafficking Victims - Establishment of Workgroup

This bill establishes the Workgroup to Study Single-Point Entry for Services and Criminal Immunity for Victims of Human Trafficking to study issues relating to a single point of entry for minors who are victims of human trafficking. The bill provides for the membership of the workgroup and establishes reporting requirements. The Governor must designate the chair of the workgroup. The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP) must provide staff for the workgroup.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2017, and terminates June 30, 2020.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any expense reimbursements for workgroup members and staffing costs for GOCCP are assumed to be minimal and absorbable within existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: The workgroup must:

- design a plan that will create a single point of entry for minors who are victims of human trafficking;
- study the potential cost of a program providing a single point of entry for minors who are victims of human trafficking; and

- study the potential for providing immunity in connection with participation in services for minors who are the victims of human trafficking and have been charged with criminal offenses or delinquent acts.

The workgroup must submit preliminary reports on its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 2017, and by December 1, 2018. By December 1, 2019, the workgroup must submit a final report on its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly.

A member of the workgroup may not receive compensation but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the standard State travel regulations, as provided in the State budget.

Current Law/Background: Chapter 91 of 2015 established the Workgroup to Study Safe Harbor Policy for Youth Victims of Human Trafficking. The workgroup was tasked with various responsibilities relating to human trafficking, including making recommendations regarding legislation to address the provision of services and legal protections for youth victims of human trafficking in the State. One of the recommendations in the workgroup’s final [report](#) was for GOCCP to form a workgroup of appropriate State agencies and nongovernmental organizations to design and implement a three-year plan to develop a “Safe Harbor Service Provision Proposal” that will create a single point of entry into services for youth victims of human trafficking.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: Although designated as a cross file, HB 1202 (Delegate Morales, *et al.* – Judiciary) is not identical.

Information Source(s): Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 23, 2017
mm/lgc

Analysis by: Shirleen M. E. Pilgrim

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510