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HOUSE BILL NO. 2576

Offered January 9, 2019

Prefiled January 9, 2019

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 1 of Title 9.1 a section numbered 9.1-116.4, relating to Sex Trafficking Response Coordinator; duties; report.*

Patrons—Krizek, Ayala, Bulova, Campbell, R.R., Carr, Carroll Foy, Cole, Edmunds, Fowler, Helsel, Hugo, Landes, LaRock, McNamara, Robinson, Thomas, Wright and Yancey

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 1 of Title 9.1 a section numbered 9.1-116.4 as follows:

§ 9.1-116.4. Sex Trafficking Response Coordinator; duties; report.

A. *There is established within the Department a Sex Trafficking Response Coordinator (the Coordinator). The Coordinator shall:*

1. *Create a statewide plan for local and state agencies to identify and respond to victims of sex trafficking;*

2. *Coordinate the development of standards and guidelines for treatment programs for victims of sex trafficking;*

3. *Maintain a list of programs that provide treatment or specialized services to victims of sex trafficking and make such list available to law-enforcement agencies, attorneys for the Commonwealth, crime victim and witness assistance programs, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Social Services, the Department of Education, and school divisions;*

4. *Oversee the development of a curriculum to be completed by persons convicted of solicitation of prostitution under subsection B of § 18.2-346; and*

5. *Promote strategies for the education, training, and awareness of sex trafficking and for the reduction of demand for commercial sex.*

B. *The Coordinator may request and shall receive from every department, division, board, bureau, commission, authority, or other agency created by the Commonwealth, or to which the Commonwealth is a party or any political subdivision thereof, cooperation and assistance in the performance of its duties. The Coordinator may also consult and exchange information with local government agencies and interested stakeholders.*

C. *The Coordinator shall report annually on or before October 1 to the Governor and the General Assembly. The report shall include a summary of activities for the year and any recommendations to address sex trafficking within the Commonwealth. The Department shall ensure that such report is available to the public.*

INTRODUCED

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