

Department of Planning and Budget

2022 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1213

House of Origin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute
		<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
		<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron: Glass

3. Committee: Committee Referral Pending

4. Title: Minor victims of sex trafficking; arrest and prosecution; services.

5. Summary: Provides that no minor shall be subject to arrest, delinquency charges, or prosecution for (i) a status offense, (ii) an act that would be a misdemeanor if committed by an adult, or (iii) an act that would be a felony if committed by an adult other than a violent juvenile felony if the minor (a) is a victim of sex trafficking or severe forms of trafficking and (b) committed such offense as a direct result of being solicited, invited, recruited, encouraged, forced, intimidated, or deceived by another to engage in acts of prostitution or unlawful sexual intercourse for money or its equivalent, regardless of whether any other person has been charged or convicted of an offense related to the sex trafficking of such minor. The bill also clarifies that it is not a defense to a commercial sex trafficking charge where the adult committed such violation with a person under 18 years of age that such person under 18 years of age consented to any of the prohibited acts. The bill also provides that the local department of social services shall refer any child suspected or determined to be a victim of sex trafficking to an available victim assistance organization that provides comprehensive trauma-informed services designed to alleviate the adverse effects of trafficking and victimization and to aid in the child's healing, including assistance with case management, placement, access to educational and legal services, and mental health services.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: See Item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: This bill does not have a fiscal impact on the Department of Social Services (DSS) or local departments of social services (LDSS). The bill would require minor victims of trafficking who are immune from arrest or prosecution for trafficking-related charges to local departments for a human trafficking assessment. This assessment is already provided by LDSS. Current DSS data suggests since inception of the human trafficking assessment in 2019, local departments have conducted 40 human trafficking assessments.

Anyone convicted of a Class 1 misdemeanor is subject to a sentence of up to 12 months in jail and a fine of not more than \$2,500, either or both. However, there is not enough information available to reliably estimate the decrease in jail population as a result of this

proposal. Any decrease in jail population will reduce costs to the state. The Commonwealth currently pays the localities \$4.00 a day for each misdemeanor or otherwise locally-responsible prisoner held in a jail. It also funds a portion of the jails' operating costs, e.g. correctional officers. The state's share of these costs varies from locality to locality. However, according to the Compensation Board's most recent Jail Cost Report (November 2021), the estimated total state support for local jails averaged \$37.58 per inmate, per day in FY 2020.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Social Services, local departments of social services, Courts

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: None.