



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 561

January Session, 2007

Senate Bill No. 398

Senate, April 24, 2007

The Committee on Judiciary reported through SEN. MCDONALD of the 27th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS COUNCIL.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a
2 Trafficking in Persons Council that shall be within the Permanent
3 Commission on the Status of Women for administrative purposes only.

4 (b) The council shall consist of the following members: The Attorney
5 General, the Chief State's Attorney, the Chief Public Defender, the
6 Commissioner of Public Safety, the Labor Commissioner, the
7 Commissioner of Social Services, the Commissioner of Public Health,
8 the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the
9 Commissioner of Children and Families, the Child Advocate, the
10 Victim Advocate, the chairperson of the Commission on Children, the
11 chairperson of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women,
12 the chairperson of the Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission,
13 the chairperson of the African-American Affairs Commission, three
14 representatives of the Judicial Branch appointed by the Chief Court
15 Administrator, one of whom shall represent the Office of Victim

16 Services and one of whom shall represent the Court Support Services
17 Division, and a municipal police chief appointed by the Connecticut
18 Police Chiefs Association, or a representative of any such member who
19 has been designated in writing by such member to serve as such
20 member's representative, and seven public members appointed as
21 follows: The Governor shall appoint one member who shall represent
22 Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc., the president pro
23 tempore of the Senate shall appoint one member who shall represent
24 an organization that provides civil legal services to low-income
25 individuals, the speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint
26 one member who shall represent the Connecticut Coalition Against
27 Domestic Violence, the majority leader of the Senate shall appoint one
28 member who shall represent an organization that deals with
29 behavioral health needs of women and children, the majority leader of
30 the House of Representatives shall appoint one member who shall
31 represent an organization that advocates on social justice and human
32 rights issues, the minority leader of the Senate shall appoint one
33 member who shall represent the Connecticut Immigrant and Refugee
34 Coalition, and the minority leader of the House of Representatives
35 shall appoint one member who shall represent the Asian-American
36 community.

37 (c) The chairperson of the Permanent Commission on the Status of
38 Women shall serve as chairperson of the council. The members of the
39 council shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for
40 necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

41 (d) The council shall: (1) Hold meetings to provide updates and
42 progress reports, (2) identify criteria for providing services to adult
43 trafficking victims, (3) identify criteria for providing services to
44 children of trafficking victims, and (4) consult with governmental and
45 nongovernmental organizations in developing recommendations to
46 strengthen state and local efforts to prevent trafficking, protect and
47 assist victims of trafficking and prosecute traffickers. The council shall
48 meet at least three times per year.

49 (e) The council may request data and other information from state
50 and local agencies to carry out its duties under this section.

51 (f) Not later than January 1, 2008, and annually thereafter, the
52 council shall submit a report of its activities, including any
53 recommendations for legislation, to the General Assembly in
54 accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes.

55 (g) For the purposes of this section, "trafficking" means all acts
56 involved in the recruitment, abduction, transport, harboring, transfer,
57 sale or receipt of persons, within national or across international
58 borders, through force, coercion, fraud or deception, to place persons
59 in situations of slavery or slavery-like conditions, forced labor or
60 services, such as forced prostitution or sexual services, domestic
61 servitude, bonded sweatshop labor or other debt bondage.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

JUD *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 08 \$	FY 09 \$
Various State Agencies	GF - Cost	Potential Minimal	Potential Minimal

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill establishes a Trafficking in Persons Council. Council members are not compensated but are reimbursed for necessary expenses in performing their duties. Various state agencies may incur a minimal cost to reimburse staff for expenses they incur while performing Council duties.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation.

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 398*****AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS COUNCIL.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill creates a 26-member Trafficking in Persons Council to:

1. consult with government and non-governmental organizations in developing recommendations to strengthen state and local efforts to prevent trafficking, protect and assist victims, and prosecute traffickers;
2. identify criteria for providing services to adult trafficking victims and their children; and
3. hold meetings to provide updates and progress reports.

The council can request information from state and local agencies to carry out its duties.

The bill requires the council to meet at least three times per year, and it must annually report to the General Assembly on its activities and recommend legislation, beginning January 1, 2008.

The bill places the council in the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW) for administrative purposes only.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

MEMBERS

The council consists of the following government officials or people they designate in writing to represent them:

1. the attorney general;

2. the chief state's attorney;
3. the chief public defender;
4. the commissioners of children and families, labor, mental health and addiction services, public health, public safety, and social services;
5. the child advocate;
6. the victim advocate;
7. the chairpersons of the commissions on Children, Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs, and African-American Affairs, and PCSW;
8. three Judicial Branch representatives appointed by the chief court administrator, with one representing the Office of Victim Services and one the Court Support Services Division; and
9. a municipal police chief appointed by the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association.

The council also has seven public members chosen as follows:

1. the governor appoints one, who represents Connecticut Sexual Assault Crisis Services, Inc.;
2. the Senate president pro tempore appoints one, who represents an organization providing civil legal services to low-income individuals;
3. the House speaker appoints one, who represents the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence;
4. the Senate majority leader appoints one, who represents an organization that deals with behavioral health needs of women and children;
5. the House majority leader appoints one, who represents an organization that advocates social justice and human rights

issues;

6. the Senate minority leader appoints one, who represents the Connecticut Immigrant and Refugee Coalition; and
7. the House minority leader appoints one, who represents the Asian-American community.

The PCSW chairwoman serves as the council's chairperson. Members are not compensated but are reimbursed for necessary expenses in performing their duties.

TRAFFICKING

The bill defines "trafficking" as all acts involved in recruiting, abducting, transporting, harboring, transferring, selling, or receiving people within national or across international borders using force, coercion, fraud, or deception, to place them in situations of slavery or slavery-like conditions; forced labor or services, such as forced prostitution or sexual services; domestic servitude; bonded sweatshop labor; or other debt bondage.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 42 Nay 0 (04/09/2007)