

CHAPTER 525

An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Title 30 a chapter numbered 42, consisting of sections numbered 30-278 through 30-283, relating to the Commission on the Prevention of Human Trafficking.

[H 2923]

Approved March 19, 2007

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Title 30 a chapter numbered 42, consisting of sections numbered 30-278 through 30-283, as follows:

CHAPTER 42.

COMMISSION ON THE PREVENTION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

§ 30-278. The Commission on the Prevention of Human Trafficking; purpose.

The Commission on the Prevention of Human Trafficking (the Commission) is established as a study commission in the legislative branch of state government for the purpose of developing and implementing a State Plan for the Prevention of Human Trafficking.

§ 30-279. Membership; terms; quorum; meetings.

The Commission shall have a total membership of 17 members that shall consist of six legislative members, five nonlegislative citizen members, and six ex officio members. Members shall be appointed as follows: four members of the House of Delegates, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates in accordance with the principles of proportional representation contained in the Rules of the House of Delegates; two members of the Senate, to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules; three nonlegislative citizen members of whom one shall be a representative of the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police, one shall be a representative of the Virginia Association of Commonwealth's Attorneys, and one shall be a representative of a national organization that monitors issues related to human trafficking, to

1 be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates; and two nonlegislative citizen
2 members, of whom one shall be a representative of the Virginia Sheriffs' Association and one
3 shall be a representative of an organization in Virginia that provides services to victims of
4 violence and human trafficking, to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules. The
5 Attorney General of Virginia, the Secretary of Public Safety, the Commissioner of Labor and
6 Industry, the Commissioner of Health, the Commissioner of Social Services, and the
7 Superintendent of State Police or their designees shall serve ex officio with nonvoting
8 privileges. In addition, the Commission shall request the participation of the United States
9 Department of State, United States Department of Justice, United States Department of Health
10 and Human Services, United States Department of Labor, and United States Department of
11 Homeland Security in all of its deliberations on human trafficking. Nonlegislative citizen
12 members of the Commission shall be citizens of the Commonwealth.

13 Legislative members and ex officio members of the Commission shall serve terms
14 coincident with their terms of office.

15 Appointments to fill vacancies, other than by expiration of a term, shall be for the
16 unexpired terms. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments. All
17 members may be reappointed.

18 The Commission shall elect a chairman and vice-chairman from among its membership,
19 who shall be members of the General Assembly. A majority of the members shall constitute a
20 quorum. The Commission shall meet no more than four times each year. The meetings of the
21 Commission shall be held at the call of the chairman or whenever the majority of the members
22 so request.

23 § 30-280. Compensation; expenses.

24 Legislative members of the Commission shall receive such compensation as provided in
25 § 30-19.12, and nonlegislative citizen members shall receive such compensation for the
26 performance of their duties as provided in § 2.2-2813. All members shall be reimbursed for all
27 reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as provided in

1 §§ 2.2-2813 and 2.2-2825. Funding for the costs of compensation and expenses of the
2 members shall be provided by the Commission on the Prevention of Human Trafficking from
3 such funds as may be appropriated therefor.

4 § 30-281. Powers and duties of the Commission.

5 The Commission shall have the following powers and duties:

6 1. Address all aspects of human trafficking, including the recruitment, abduction,
7 transport, harboring, transfer, sale, or receipt of persons, whether United States citizens or
8 foreign nationals, within and across state borders by any conveyance for the purpose of
9 enslaving persons or subjecting them to slavery-like conditions.

10 2. Develop and coordinate the implementation of a State Plan for the Prevention of
11 Human Trafficking throughout the Commonwealth.

12 3. Work with state, local, and federal agencies and through other existing mechanisms
13 to (i) enhance the collection and sharing of data among government agencies pertaining to
14 human trafficking, (ii) identify individuals and organizations engaged in human trafficking, and
15 (iii) ensure that such data collection facilitates the confidentiality of information and protects the
16 privacy of victims of human trafficking.

17 4. Recommend policies that will facilitate effective and efficient collaborations between
18 relevant state agencies, the community, business and industry, and public and private entities
19 to prevent human trafficking and provide assistance to victims who are United States citizens
20 or foreign nationals.

21 5. Review the existing services and facilities available to meet the needs of victims of
22 human trafficking and recommend ways in which services may be better coordinated, including
23 but not limited to health, mental health, interpretation, legal and immigration, housing, and
24 education and job training services and victim compensation.

25 6. Evaluate various approaches used by state and local governments to provide public
26 awareness of the problem of human trafficking and make recommendations regarding ways to

1 heighten public awareness regarding the problem and its social and economic impact in the
2 Commonwealth.

3 7. Enlist the cooperation and assistance of state, local, and federal agencies,
4 community organizations, business and industry, the education community, and public and
5 private entities, particularly those that represent diverse communities disproportionately
6 affected by human trafficking, monitor human trafficking issues, enforce prevention and
7 violation initiatives, academicians with expertise in the field, or provide services to victims,
8 children and runaways, and victims of violence.

9 8. Submit to the Governor and the General Assembly an annual report for publication as
10 a report document as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated
11 Systems for the processing of legislative documents and reports. The chairman shall submit to
12 the Governor and the General Assembly an annual executive summary of the interim activity
13 and work of the Commission no later than the first day of each regular session of the General
14 Assembly. The executive summary shall be submitted for publication as a report document as
15 provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for the processing
16 of legislative documents and reports and shall be posted on the General Assembly's website.

17 § 30-282. Staffing.

18 The Division of Legislative Services shall provide staff support to the Commission. All
19 agencies of the Commonwealth shall provide assistance to the Commission, upon request.

20 § 30-283. Sunset.

21 This chapter shall expire on July 1, 2009.