



## 2014 Legislative Session

### Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force

### Proposed Supported Bills

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#### 2014 Session HB 701/SB 454

**Sponsor in House:** Delegates Lee. **Co-sponsors:** Beidle, Bobo, Cardin, Carr, Cullison, DeBoy, Dumais, Dwyer, Frush, Gutierrez, Guzzone, Haddaway-Riccio, Healey, Howard, Jameson, Jones, A. Kelly, Lafferty, McComas, McDonough, A. Miller, Morhaim, Ready, S. Robinson, Rosenberg, Sophoclaus, Stocksdales, F. Turner, Valderrama, and A. Washington.

**Sponsor in Senate:** Senator Robey.

**HEARINGS:** In the House – Hearing on 2/18 at 1 PM – House Judiciary Committee

In the Senate – Hearing on 2/18 at 1 PM – Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

Md. Code Ann., Crim. Law § 11-305 (Abduction of child under 16) is currently a misdemeanor offense punishable by up to 30 years of imprisonment, a fine not to exceed \$5,000, or both. This bill raises the offense to a felony and possible imprisonment to 30 years.

An enumerated purpose of the crime of abduction is for prostitution—prostitution of a child is sex trafficking and therefore should be penalized at the same severity level as the offense of human trafficking. Human trafficking is currently a felony level offense in Maryland.

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#### 2014 Session SB 78/HB 696

**Sponsor in Senate:** Senator Forehand. **Co-Sponsors:** Brochin, Frosh, Hershey, Jacobs, Muse, Shank, Stone, Zirkin, and Kittleman

**Sponsors in House:** Delegate Valderrama. **Co-sponsors:** Clippinger, Valention-Smith

**HEARINGS:** Heard 1/29 in the Senate – Favorable with Amendments Report by Judicial Proceedings

In the House -- Hearing on 2/18 at 1 PM – House Judiciary Committee

This bill expands a human trafficking felony offense to include the trafficking of 18-20 year olds, even in the absence of any force, fraud or coercion. This would allow more felony cases to be pursued that are not typically pursued under the current law that identifies the crime of human trafficking involving victims over the age of 18 as only a misdemeanor offense. This law would not shield persons under the age 21 from liability if they themselves are identified as traffickers.

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#### 2014 Session SJ 7: Resolution on Human Trafficking

**Sponsor:** Senator Simonaire

**HEARING:** In the Senate – Hearing on 2/25 at 1 PM – Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee

This resolution formally requests the Maryland Human trafficking Task Force to perform a specified study and provide a recommendation by a specified date, and providing for the distribution of copies of the resolution.