

# PROTECTED INNOCENCE CHALLENGE

STATE ACTION. NATIONAL CHANGE.

## 2015 National Legislative Progress Report

The fourth annual Protected Innocence Challenge report released on November 6, 2014 reflected substantial improvements and revealed gaps in state legislative responses to domestic minor sex trafficking. The report examines six areas of law related to domestic minor sex trafficking resulting in a comprehensive analysis of each state's statutes to effectively combat sex trafficking of children. The Protected Innocence Challenge calls states to improve their laws to bring national change. When the inaugural report was released in 2011, 26 states received a failing grade, but states responded to the call to action, and by 2014 only 4 states had a failing grade.

Legislative changes introduced and enacted so far in the 2015 session demonstrate that this call for change continues to be answered. Strong momentum in the 2015 session addressing domestic minor sex trafficking reflects the efforts of advocates who are using the Protected Innocence tools to press for change, and the state legislators who are introducing laws to fix the gaps that allow trafficked children to remain vulnerable, unidentified and deprived of services and justice. 2015 could be the first year that all 50 states have a law specifically criminalizing sex trafficking, as Virginia enacted its first standalone sex trafficking law in March 2015, and Hawaii has a bill progressing this session. Several states are taking steps to exclude proof of force, fraud, or coercion from the definition of sex trafficking when the victim is a minor while other states are proceeding with legislation that acknowledges the role of buyers in driving the demand for sex trafficked youth and are laying the groundwork for establishing innovative protective responses for child victims.

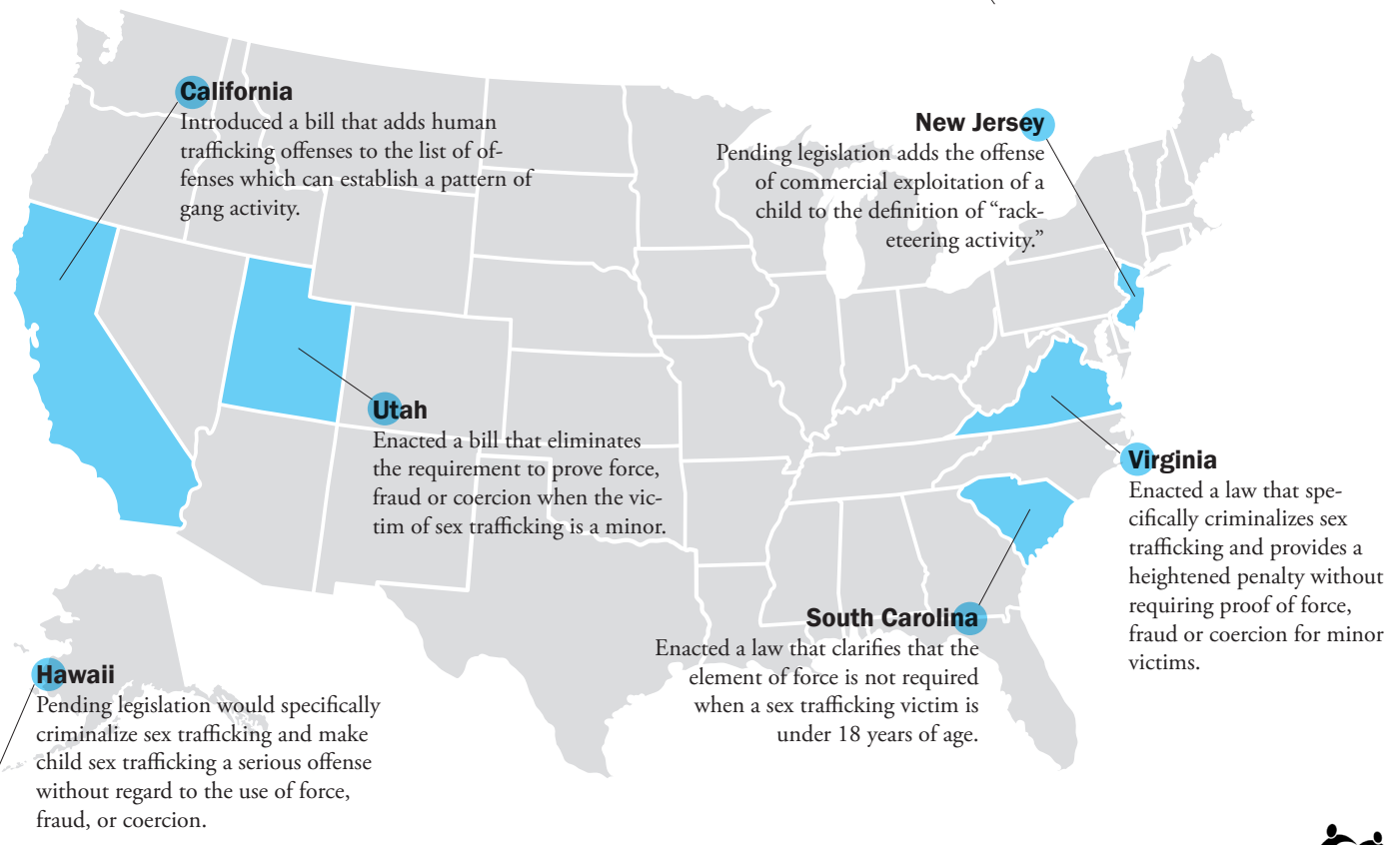
### Since August 1, 2014:

- **686** bills that relate to domestic minor sex trafficking were introduced.
- **48** states have introduced bills that relate to the Protected Innocence Challenge framework.
- **12** states have enacted **51** laws relating to the Protected Innocence Challenge framework.

*Statistics are based on Congressional Quarterly StateTrack report summarized on March 20, 2015.*

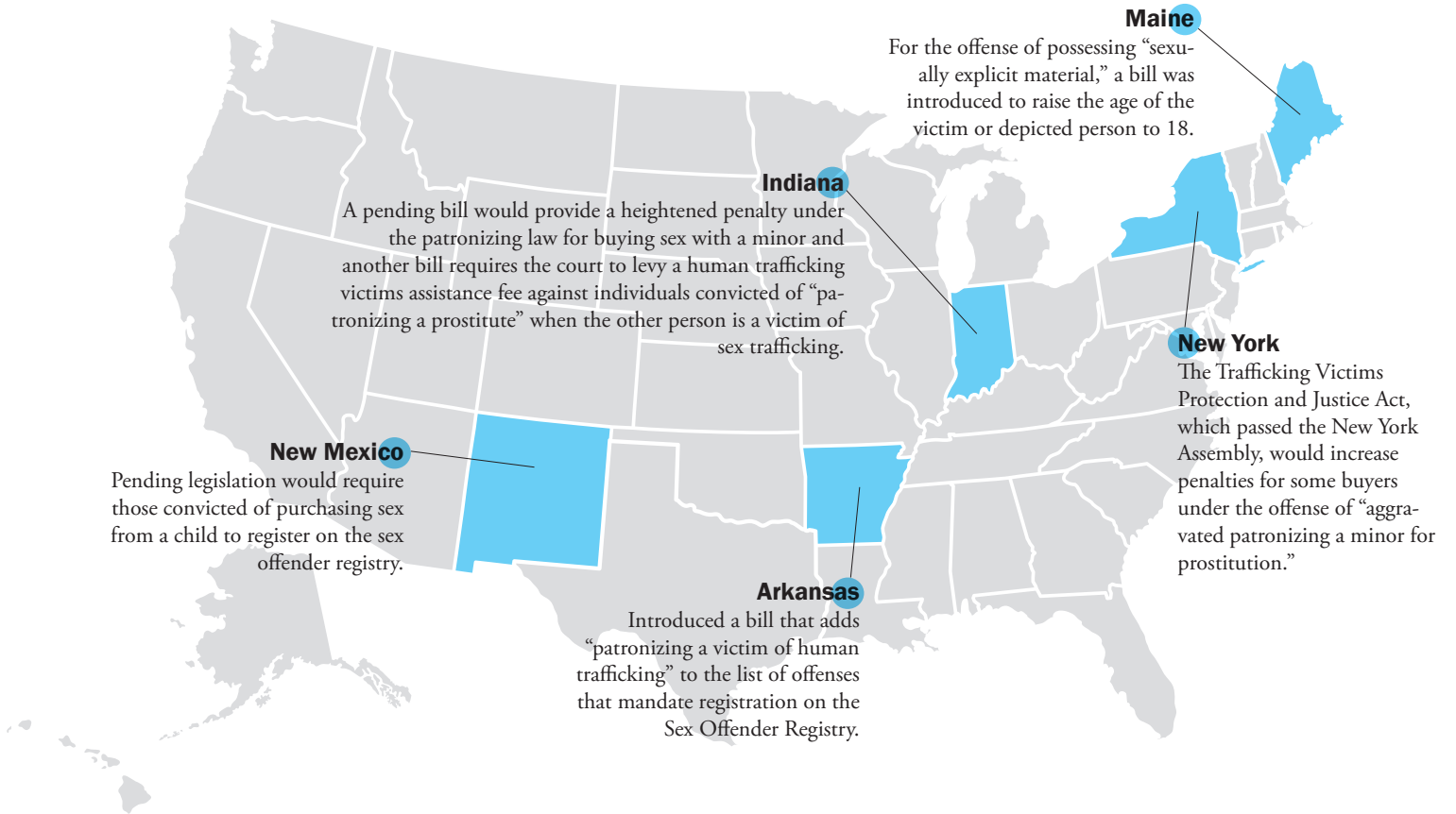
## CRIMINALIZATION OF DOMESTIC MINOR SEX TRAFFICKING

### Legislative Highlight

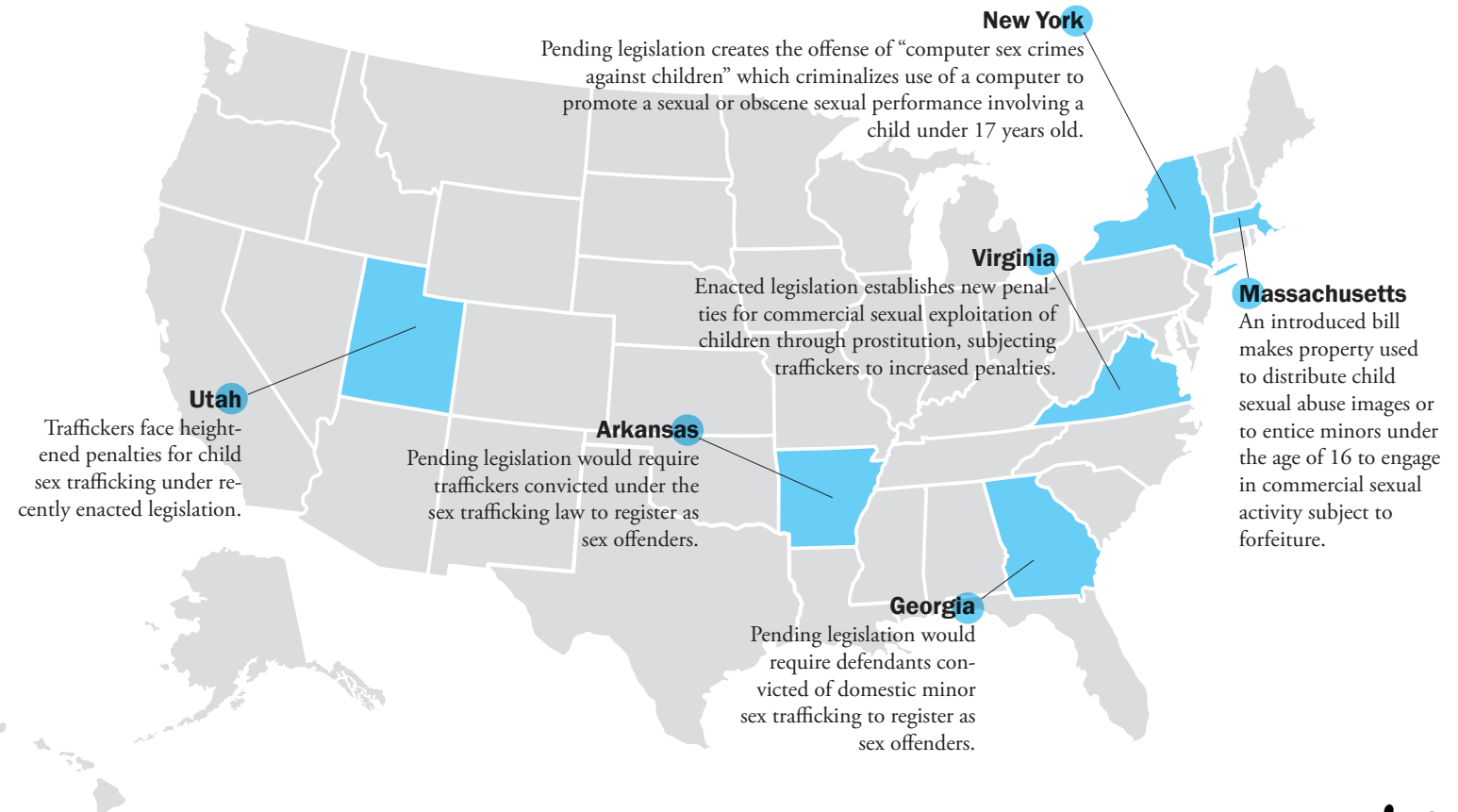


## CRIMINAL PROVISIONS ADDRESSING DEMAND

Legislative highlight

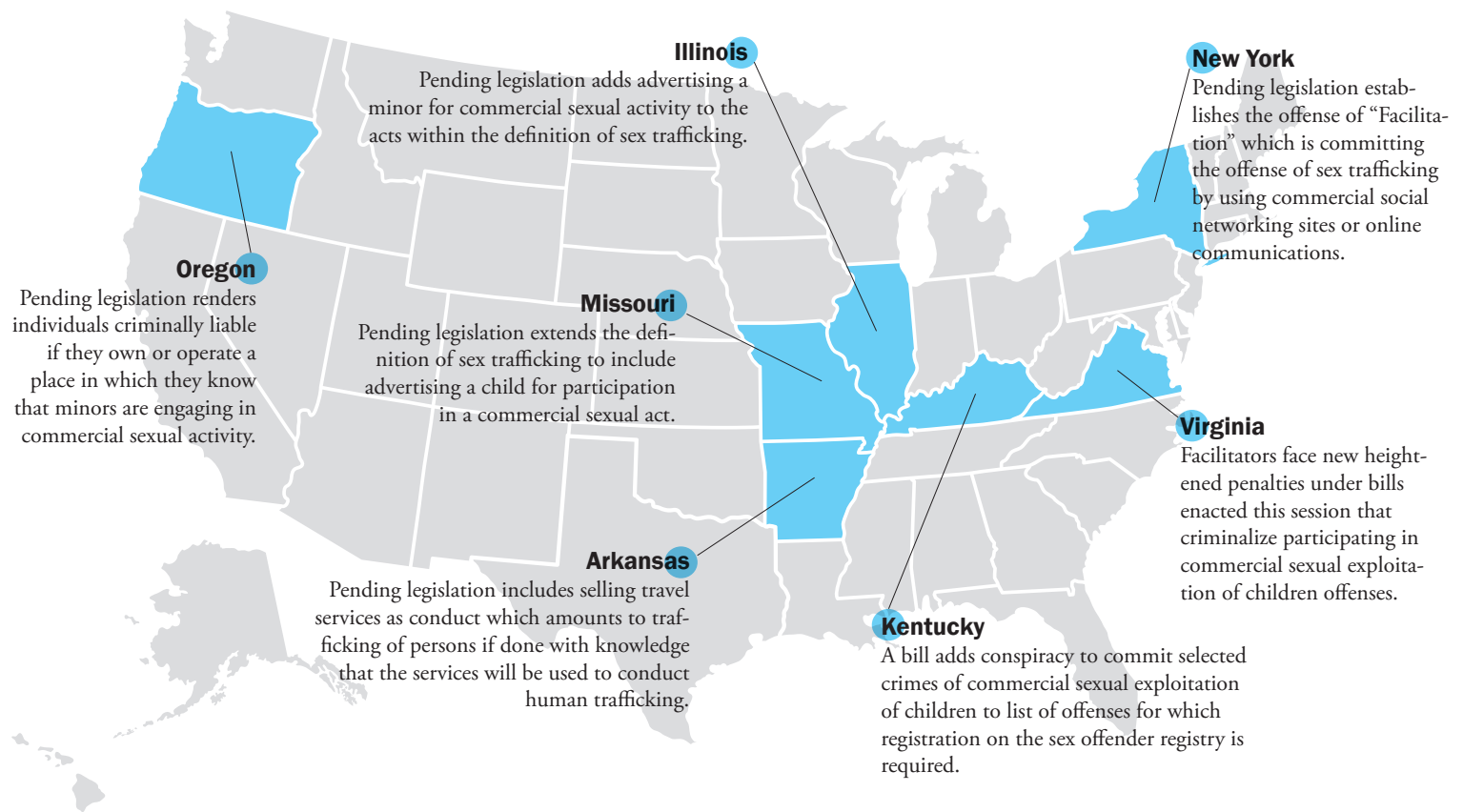


## CRIMINAL PROVISIONS FOR TRAFFICKERS

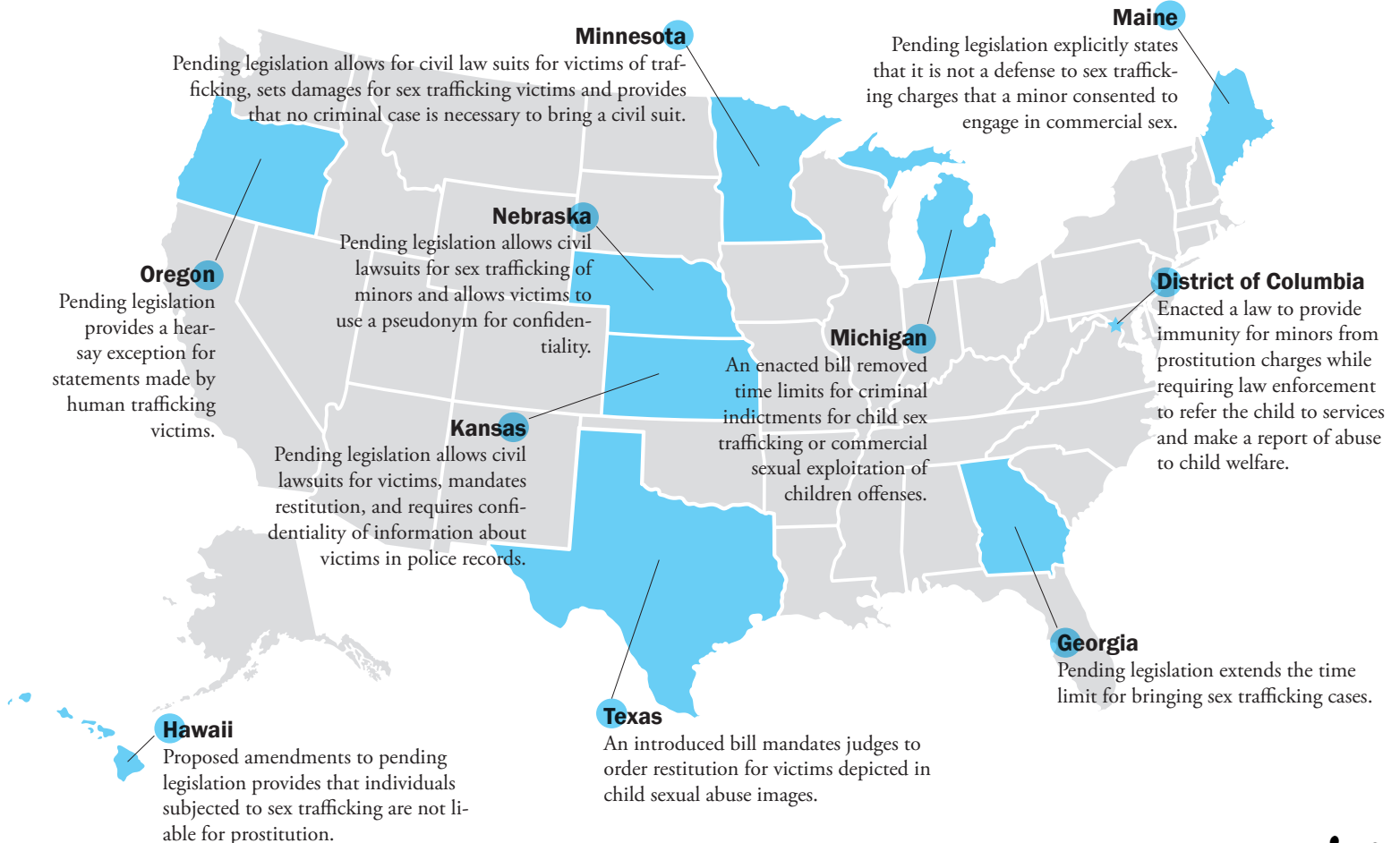


## CRIMINAL PROVISIONS FOR FACILITATORS

Legislative highlight

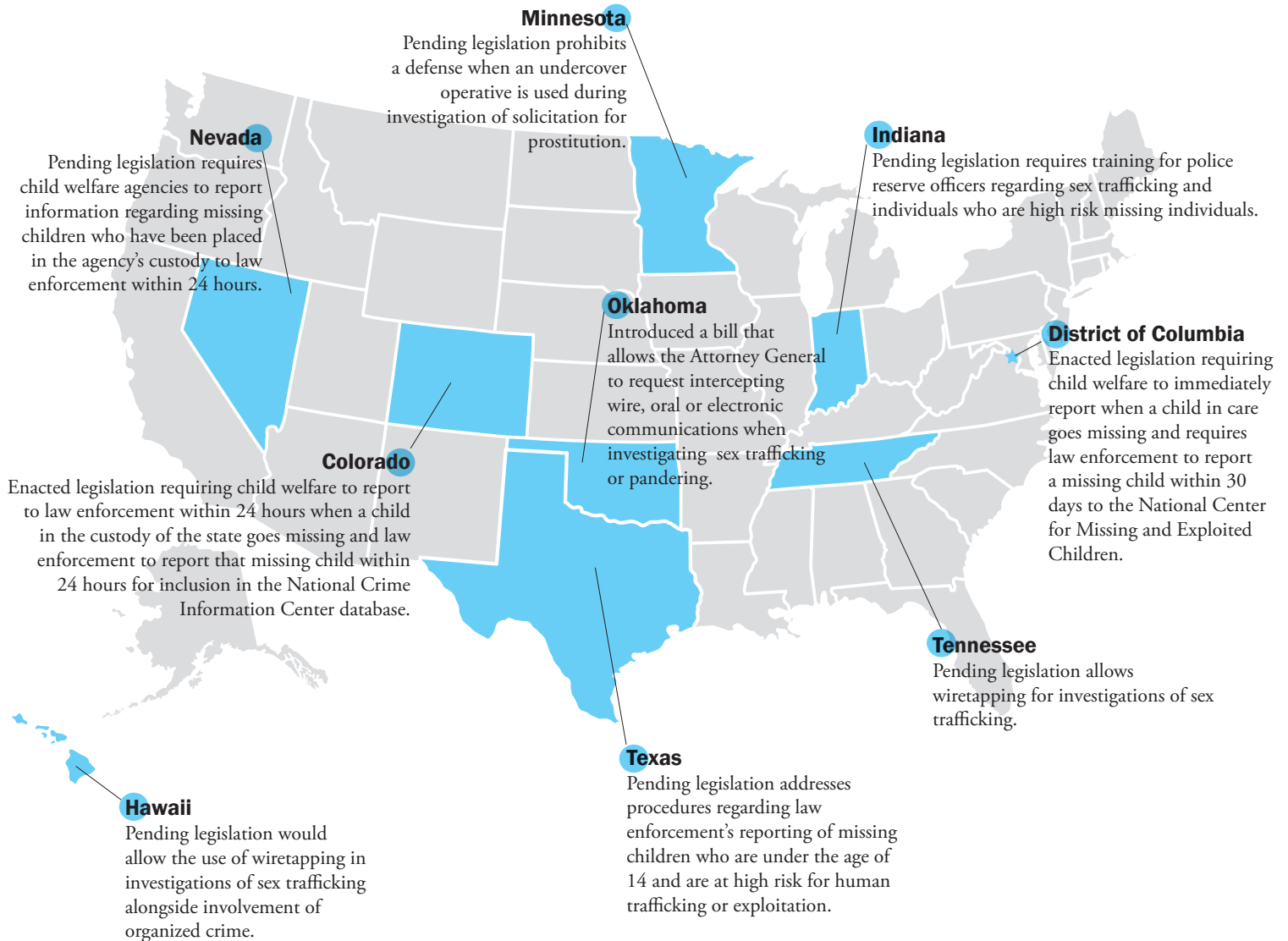


## PROTECTIVE PROVISIONS FOR CHILD VICTIMS



# CRIMINAL JUSTICE TOOLS FOR INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION

Legislative highlight



To find your state Report Card, track pending bills, download advocacy tools, contact your representative and take action on important advocacy initiatives, please visit: [sharedhope.org/policy](http://sharedhope.org/policy)