

PROTECTED INNOCENCE CHALLENGE

STATE ACTION. NATIONAL CHANGE.

2015 National Legislative Progress Report

2015 marks the fifth year of the Protected Innocence Challenge and features improved state legislation better designed to prevent and respond to juvenile sex trafficking. The Protected Innocence Challenge examines six areas of law related to domestic minor sex trafficking, resulting in a comprehensive, detailed analysis of each state's statutory makeup to effectively combat sex trafficking of children.

Over the past five years, advancements have resulted in higher grades for many states, but critical gaps remain which enable the sexual exploitation of children. Legislative changes during the 2015 session reflect the national efforts of advocates who are using the Protected Innocence tools to press for change and of state legislators who are responding to the challenge by addressing inadequacies in state laws that allow trafficked children to remain vulnerable, unidentified and deprived of vital services and justice.

A significant 2015 advancement was the enactment of Virginia's first standalone sex trafficking law. Other states have demonstrated a continued commitment to combatting trafficking by improving their laws. In 2015, a critical consensus is highlighted as several more states successfully excluded proof of force, fraud, or coercion from the definition of sex trafficking when the victim is a minor. Other states ushered in laws that acknowledge the role of buyers in driving the demand for sex trafficked youth and laid the groundwork for establishing innovative protective responses for child victims.

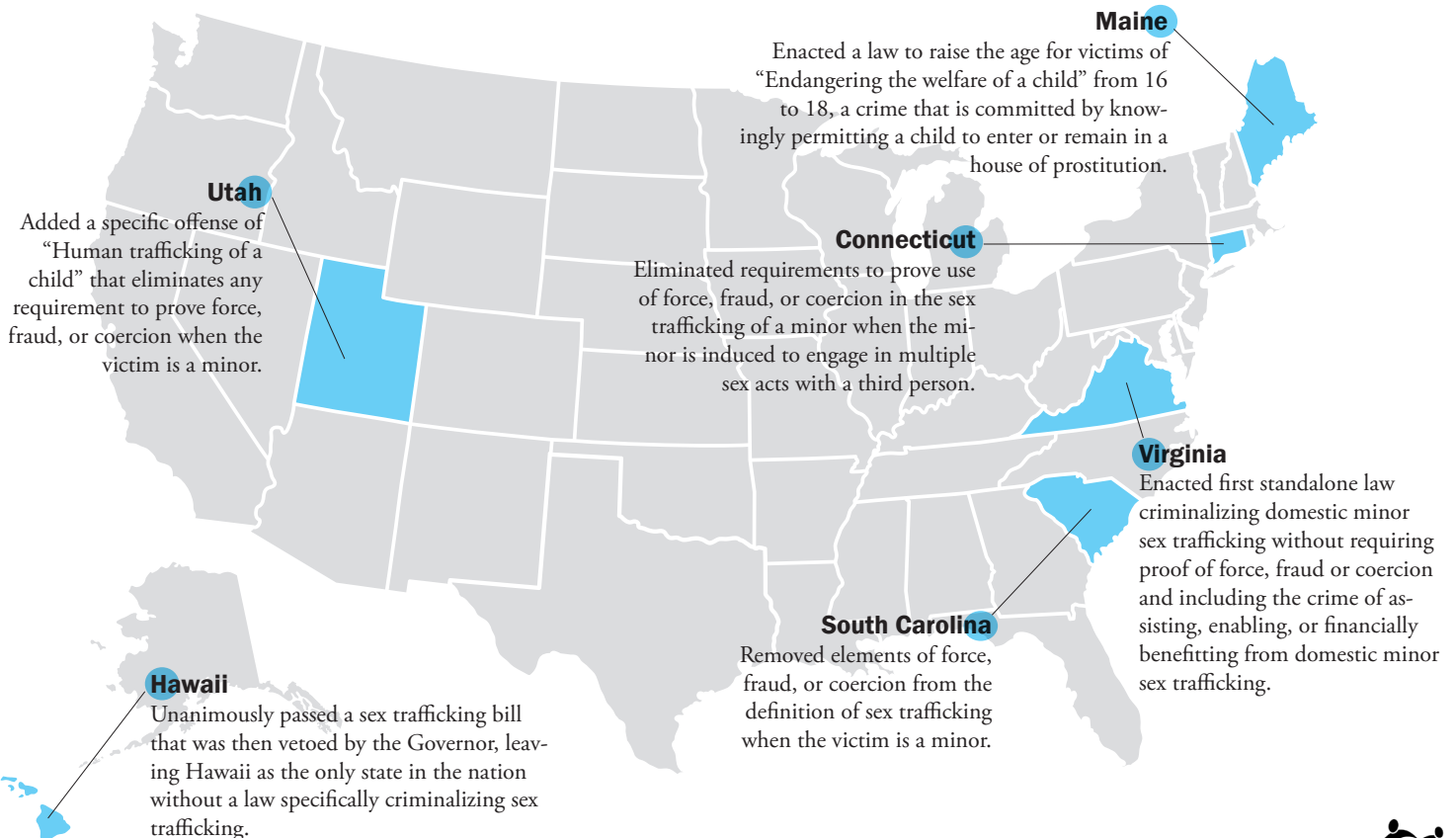
Since August 1, 2014:

- 933 bills that relate to domestic minor sex trafficking were introduced in 50 states.
- 42 states and D.C. enacted 236 bills relating to the Protected Innocence Challenge framework.

Statistics are based on Congressional Quarterly StateTrack report summarized on August 1, 2015.

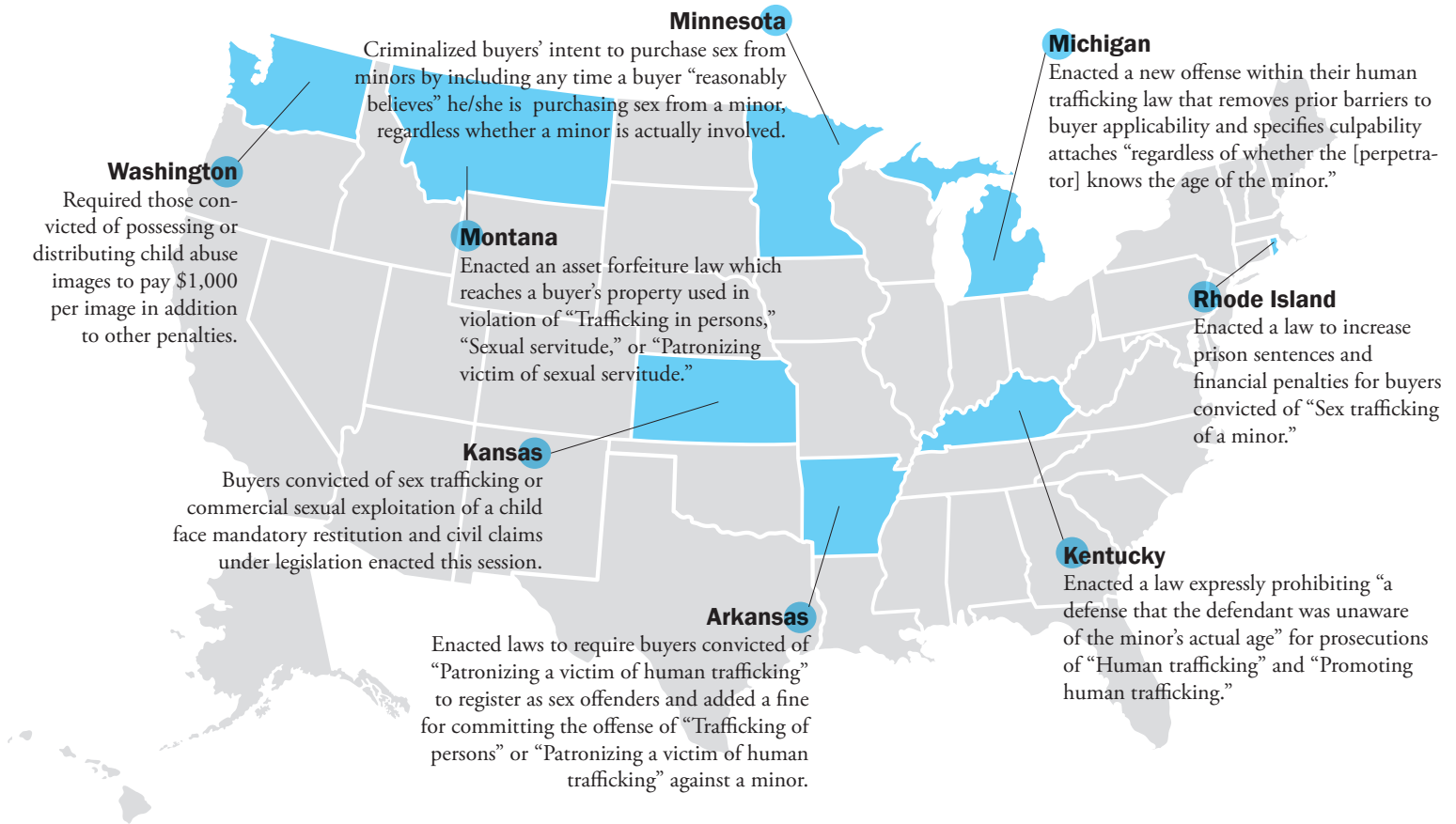
Legislative Highlight

CRIMINALIZATION OF DOMESTIC MINOR SEX TRAFFICKING

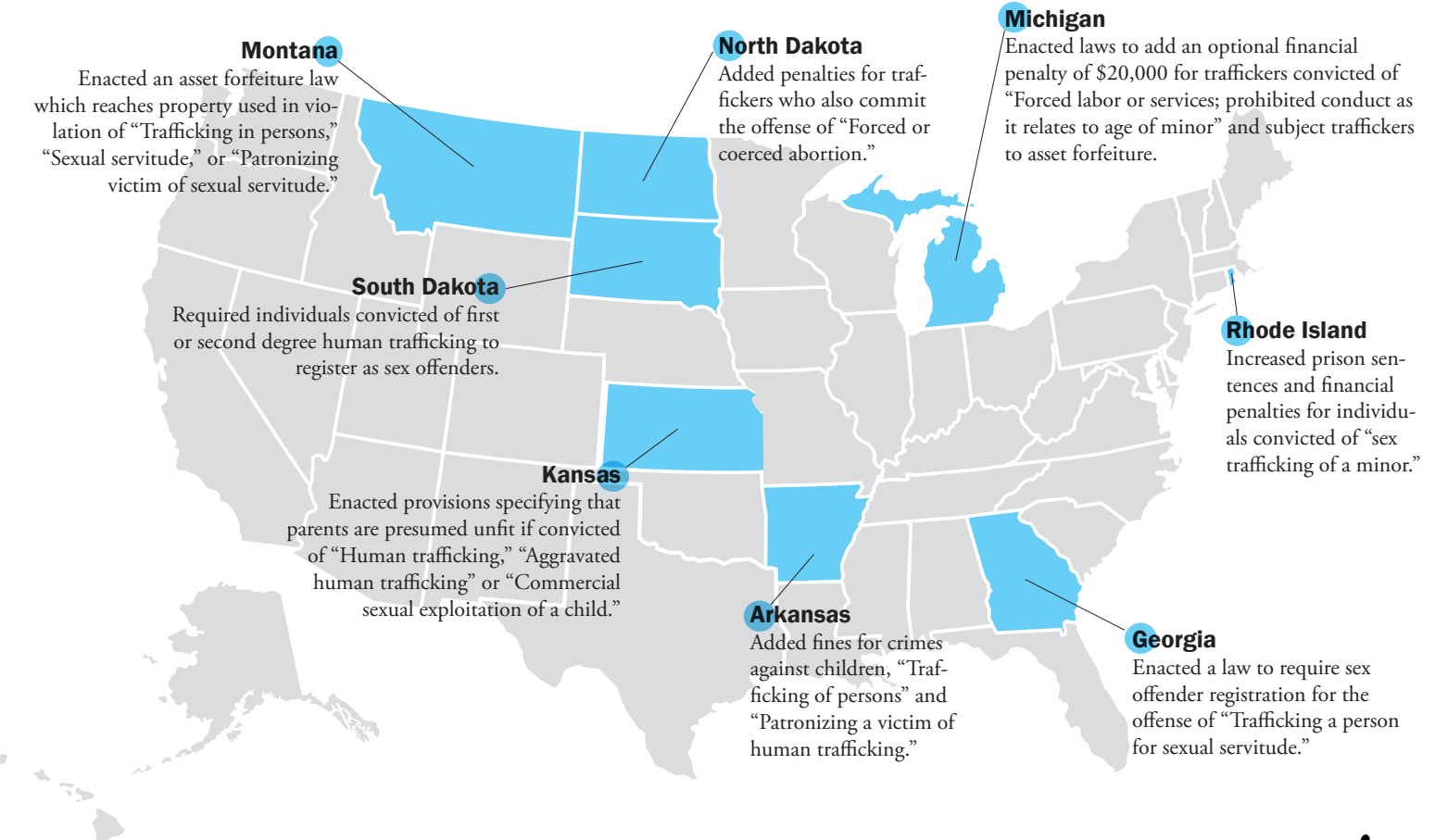


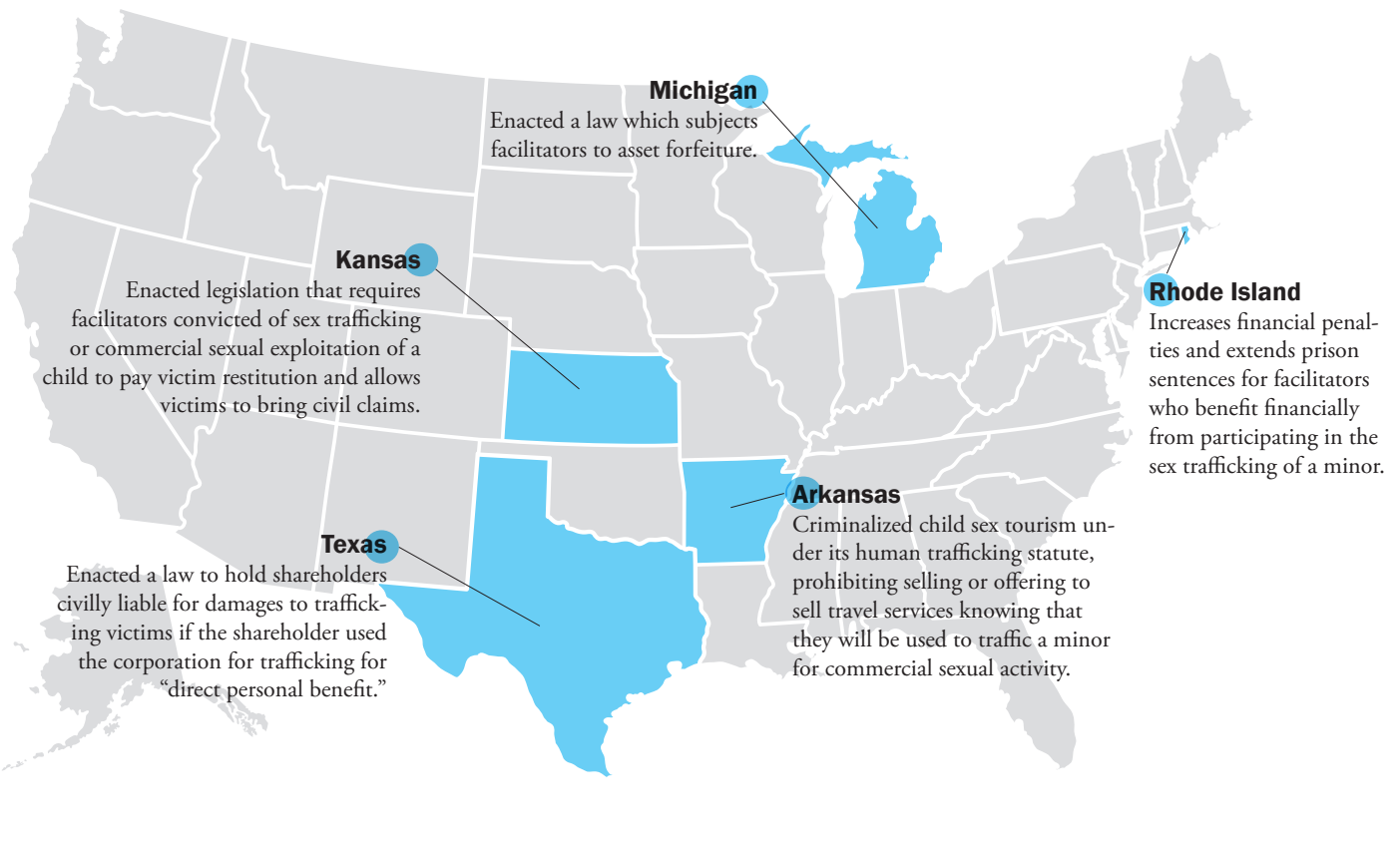
CRIMINAL PROVISIONS ADDRESSING DEMAND

Legislative highlight

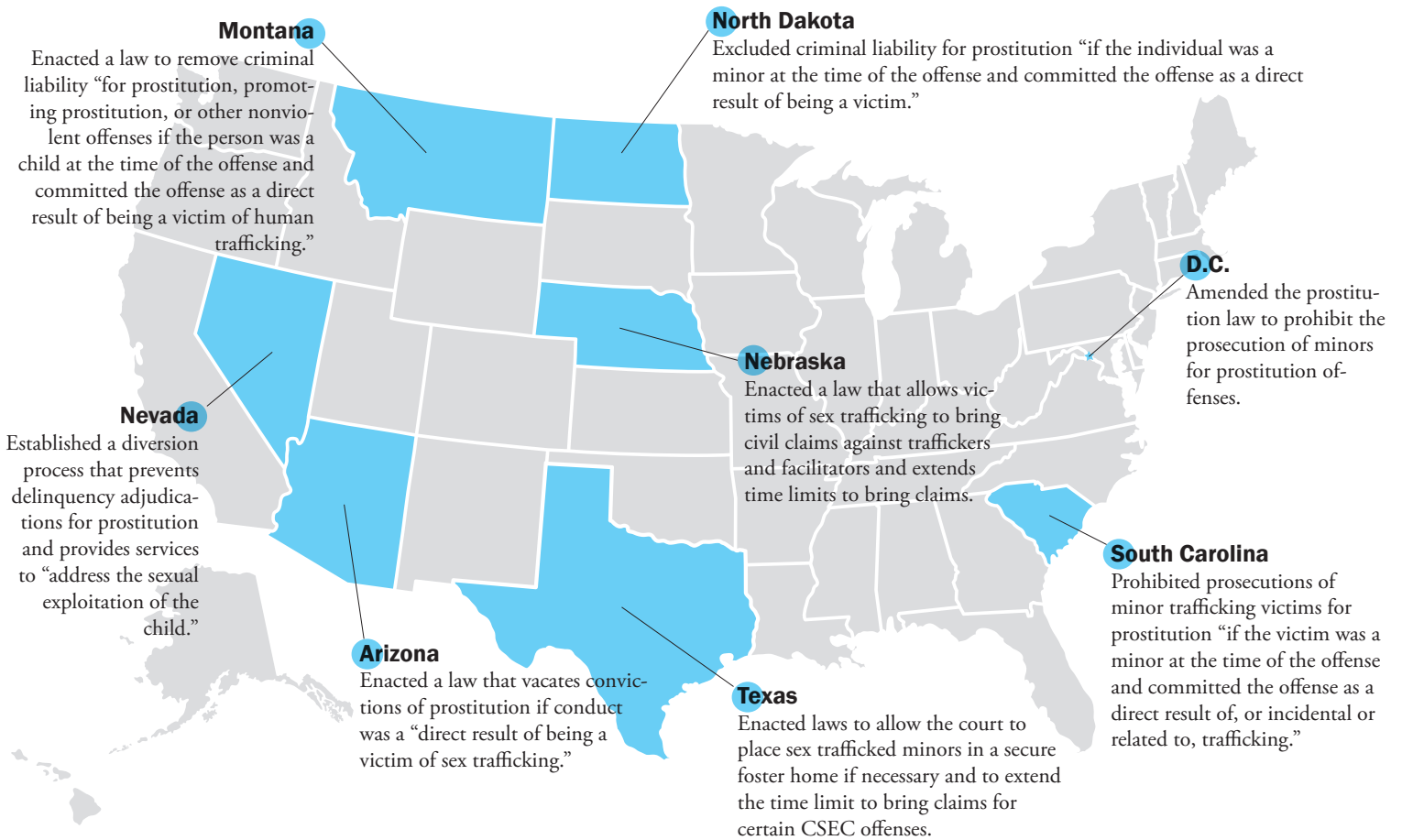


CRIMINAL PROVISIONS FOR TRAFFICKERS



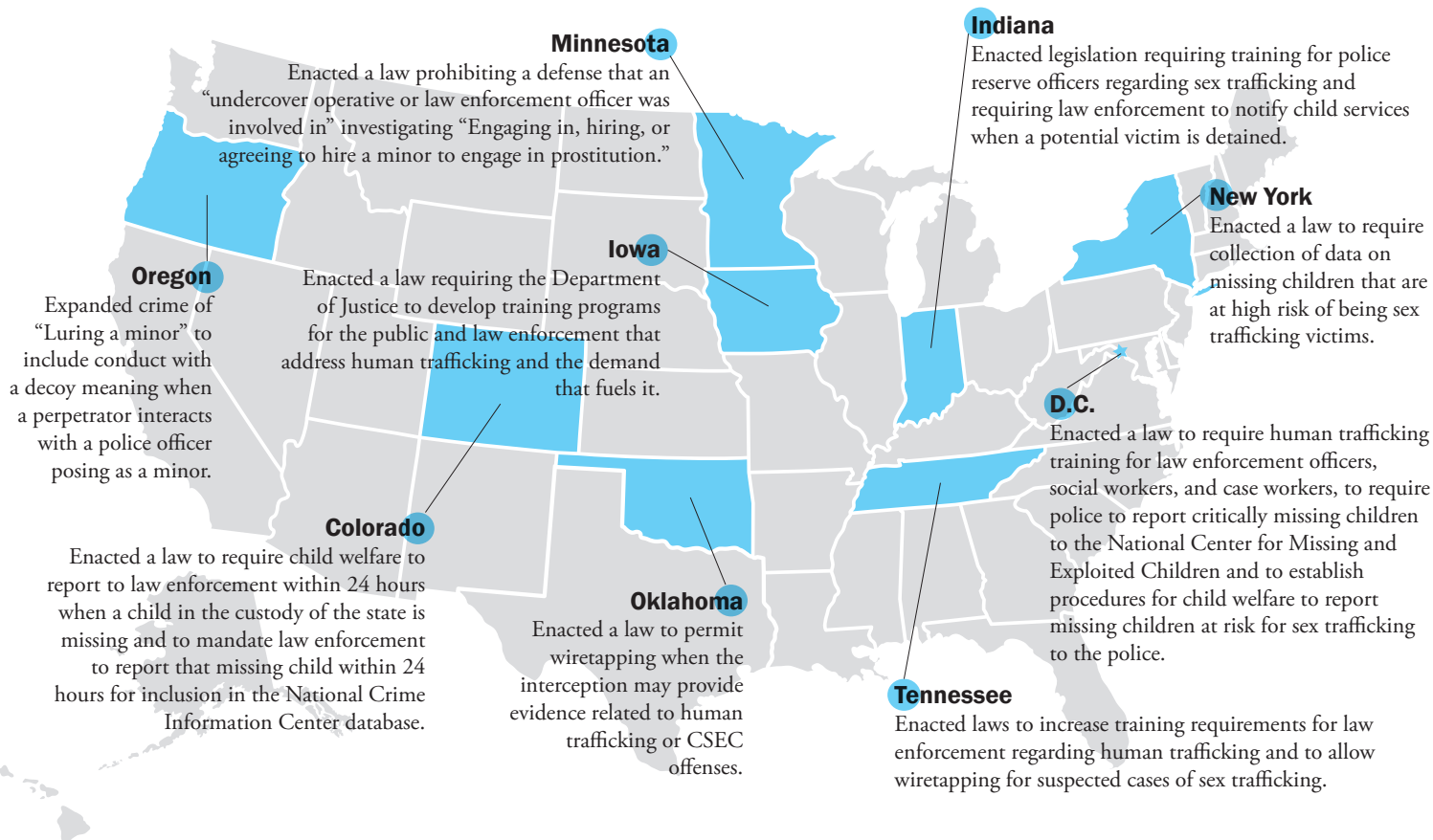


PROTECTIVE PROVISIONS FOR CHILD VICTIMS



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