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Governor Chris Christie Signs Bipartisan Human Trafficking Prevention, Protection and Treatment Act

Monday, May 06, 2013

Tags: [Bill Action](#)

Measure Strengthens Existing Laws and Increases Penalties for Human Trafficking

Trenton, NJ – Taking action to prevent human trafficking and raise awareness of the issue, Governor Chris Christie today signed the bipartisan “Human Trafficking Prevention, Protection, and Treatment Act” to strengthen state law by increasing penalties for and providing resources to prevent human trafficking in New Jersey. The legislation is a comprehensive update and expansion to state law and creates the Commission on Human Trafficking to review laws and enforcement and make recommendations to state policy makers; establishes a ‘Human Trafficking Survivor’s Assistance Fund’ to provide victims’ services, promote awareness, and develop training and educational materials; and increases both financial penalties and prison time for those who traffic individuals.

Coupled with the measure, the Governor also signed bills designating each January as “Human Trafficking Prevention Month” and January 11th as “Human Trafficking Awareness Day.”

“As public officials, we have a solemn responsibility to prevent and protect citizens from the dark world of human trafficking,” said Governor Christie. “This comprehensive and bipartisan approach strengthens and expands the state’s ongoing efforts to aggressively combat this brutal practice, and also ensures that the victims of human trafficking receive the treatment they need. This bill is a big step forward toward protecting the most vulnerable members of our society, and I am proud to sign it into law.”

Last year, the Christie Administration, through the Attorney General’s Office, made fighting human trafficking a top priority, creating a new Human Trafficking Unit and issuing a statewide law enforcement directive to increase prosecutions of human trafficking and rescue victims. Under Attorney General Chiesa’s leadership, the new unit has already made significant arrests. According to the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice, 179 cases of human trafficking were reported to the Division between September 2005 and March 2012. They included 93 victims trafficked for labor, 60 for sex, and 26 for both labor and sex trafficking.

Also, in taking action on additional pending legislation, Governor Christie sought to properly balance protecting the privacy of employees and job candidates and an employer’s ability to appropriately screen job candidates, manage their personnel, and protect their business assets and proprietary information by returning A-2878 to the Legislature with recommendations to enhance the measure.

The complete list of legislation acted on by Governor Christie includes:

BILLS SIGNED:

A-3352/S-2239 (Vainieri Huttle, McHose, Barnes, Tucker, Fuentes, Stender, Sumter, Dancer, Munoz/Pou, Vitale, Gill) - The “Human Trafficking Prevention, Protection and Treatment Act”

AJR-55/SJR-44 (Vainieri Huttle, Stender, Wagner, Quijano/Buono, Cunningham) – Designates January of each year as “Human Trafficking Prevention Month”

AJR-56/SJR-60 (Vainieri Huttle, Stender, Wagner, Quijano, Jasey/Buono, Scutari) – Designates January 11 of each year as “Human Trafficking Awareness Day”

A-893/S-2257 (McHose/Oroho) – Establishes a process for renewal of DOE issued authorization of certified educational facilities manager

A-2555/ SCS for S-1681 (Tucker, Wilson, Conaway/Beach, Sarlo) – Permits chief administrator of MVC to waive CDL skills test for certain applicants with military experience operating commercial motor vehicles

A-2882/S-2034 (Albano, Mosquera, Eustace, Benson, C. J. Brown/Whelan, Beach) - Requires professional boards to provide credits toward requirements for licensure for veterans with substantially equivalent training

A-3080/SCS for S-2166, 2336 (Schaer, Lampitt, Giblin, Mosquera/Madden, Sweeney, Thompson, Weinberg) – Requires health benefits coverage for refills of prescription eye drops under certain conditions

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A-3410/S-2482 (Diegnan, Jasey, Watson Coleman, Jimenez/Ruiz, Allen) – Requires school districts provide pupil directory information to county vocational schools upon request

A-3642/ S-2502 (Ramos, Schaer, Stender, Moriarty/Gill, Beach) – Requires homeowners insurance consumer information brochure to contain one page summary of policy

BILLS VETOED:

A-2878/SCS for S1915, 1898 (Burzichelli, Greewald, Ramos, Conaway, Caride/Sweeney, Whelan, O'Toole, Allen)
- **CONDITIONAL** - Prohibits requirement to disclose user name, password, or other means for accessing account or service through electronic communications device by employers

A-2982/S-2226 (Burzichelli, Quijano, Wimberly/Whelan) - CONDITIONAL – Gives State Lottery winners option of remaining anonymous for one year

A-3614/S-2422 (Prieto, Watson Coleman, Benson, Diegnan, DeAngelo, Wisniewski/Weinberg, Buono) – ABSOLUTE - Requires that contract for private operation of State Lottery be subject to approval by Legislature

Copies of the Governor's veto messages.

A-2878 [pdf 18kB]

A-2982 [pdf 27kB]

A-3614 [pdf 7.9kB]

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