

Regular Session, 2013

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 178

BY REPRESENTATIVE HODGES

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Louisiana Workforce Commission to enforce laws related to age and work status verification to prevent human trafficking.

WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of State, "trafficking in persons" and "human trafficking" have been used as umbrella terms for activities involved when someone obtains or holds a person in compelled service; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a tremendous problem in our nation and in the state of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, trafficked individuals are often forced to take grueling jobs as migrant, domestic, restaurant, or factory workers with little or no pay; and

WHEREAS, victims of human trafficking include United States citizens, foreign nationals, men, women, and underage children; and

WHEREAS, vulnerable people and communities are targeted by recruiters and traffickers, and through deception, fraud, and coercion are brought into slavery; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Bureau of Investigation reports that federally funded task forces opened two thousand five hundred fifteen suspected incidents of human trafficking for investigation between January 2008 and June 2010; and

WHEREAS, roughly eight out of ten of the suspected incidents of human trafficking were classified as sex trafficking, and about one out of ten incidents were classified as labor trafficking; and

WHEREAS, the enforcement of the requirements that all persons employed in Louisiana be of legal age for employment and be authorized to work in the United States will allow less opportunity for illegal activity; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 23:152 requires the Louisiana Workforce Commission to visit and inspect at all reasonable times, and as often as possible, all places where minors are employed, for the enforcement of minor labor laws; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 23:995 requires the Louisiana Workforce Commission to enforce the requirement that each employer verify the work authorization status of each employee; and

WHEREAS, verification of age and work authorization status of each employee will go far to ensure that workers are legally employed, which will help to curtail human trafficking in legitimate businesses.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby urge and request the Louisiana Workforce Commission to enforce the laws relative to age and work status verification to prevent human trafficking in Louisiana.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the executive director of the Louisiana Workforce Commission.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE