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State of Minnesota  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-SIXTH  
SESSION

HOUSE FILE No. **1636**

March 12, 2009

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Public Safety Policy and Oversight

March 26, 2009

Committee Recommendation and Adoption of Report:

To Pass and re-referred to the Committee on Finance

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to public safety; providing housing and support services for victims of  
1.3 human trafficking; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2008,  
1.4 section 299A.795; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter  
1.5 299A.

1.6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.7 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 299A.795, is amended to read:

1.8 **299A.795 TRAFFICKING VICTIM ASSISTANCE.**

1.9 Subdivision 1. **Plan for services.** The commissioner ~~may review the existing~~  
1.10 ~~services and facilities to meet trafficking victims' needs and recommend a plan that~~  
1.11 ~~would coordinate the services~~ shall develop plans, in consultation with nongovernmental  
1.12 organizations, for the provision of appropriate services, from governmental and  
1.13 nongovernmental sources, for victims of human trafficking and any dependents  
1.14 accompanying the victims, or parents or guardians of minor victims, including, but not  
1.15 limited to:

1.16 (1) ~~medical and mental health services~~ appropriate housing, taking into account the  
1.17 person's status as a victim of crime, and including safe conditions for sleeping, food, and  
1.18 personal hygiene;

1.19 (2) ~~housing~~ psychological counseling in a language the victim understands;

1.20 (3) ~~education and job training~~ medical assistance in a language the victim  
1.21 understands;

1.22 (4) ~~English as a second language~~ child care;

1.23 (5) ~~interpreting services~~ other material assistance as appropriate;

2.1 (6) ~~legal and immigration services~~ employment, educational, language, and training  
 2.2 opportunities; and

2.3 (7) legal assistance in a language the victim ~~compensation~~ understands.

2.4 Subd. 2. **Approval.** Plans developed under this section must be submitted for  
 2.5 approval to appropriate state authorities, which shall also undertake periodic reviews of  
 2.6 the plans and their implementation to ensure compliance with the requirements of this  
 2.7 section and section 299A.7954 and to ensure that all victims are treated with respect for  
 2.8 their human rights and dignity.

2.9 **Sec. 2. [299A.7954] PROGRAMS FOR TRAFFICKED PERSONS.**

2.10 Subdivision 1. **Grants awarded.** The commissioner shall make grants to units  
 2.11 of local government, Indian tribes, and nonprofit nongovernmental victims' service  
 2.12 organizations to develop, expand, or strengthen victim service programs for victims of  
 2.13 human trafficking and those at risk for human trafficking, including, but not limited to,  
 2.14 sexually exploited youth. Grants must be awarded to carry out the purposes of sections  
 2.15 299A.79 and 299A.795. Grants must be awarded based on the demonstrated need for  
 2.16 trafficking victim support services programs.

2.17 Subd. 2. **Program for American Indians.** The commissioner shall establish at  
 2.18 least one program under this section to provide emergency shelter services, transitional  
 2.19 and permanent housing, and support services to trafficked American Indians. The  
 2.20 commissioner shall grant continuing operating expenses to the program in the same  
 2.21 manner as operating expenses are granted to programs established under subdivision 1.

2.22 Subd. 3. **Application.** (a) Any public or private nonprofit agency may apply  
 2.23 to the commissioner for a grant to provide emergency shelter services, transitional and  
 2.24 permanent housing, and support services to trafficked persons and their children, or  
 2.25 to trafficked youth, or both. Any public or private nonprofit agency may apply to the  
 2.26 commissioner for a grant to provide training, technical assistance, and for the development  
 2.27 and implementation of education programs to increase public awareness of the causes of  
 2.28 human trafficking. Priority must be given to agencies with the most expertise serving the  
 2.29 target populations and existing programs serving the target populations. The application  
 2.30 must be submitted in a form approved by the commissioner, after consultation with the  
 2.31 statewide human trafficking task force established in section 299A.7955, and must include:

2.32 (1) a proposal for the provision of emergency shelter services, transitional and  
 2.33 permanent housing, and support services to trafficked persons and their children, or to  
 2.34 trafficked youth, or both;

2.35 (2) a proposed budget;

3.1 (3) evidence of an ability to integrate into the proposed program the uniform  
3.2 method of data collection and program evaluation established under sections 611A.33  
3.3 and 611A.34;

3.4 (4) evidence of an ability to represent the interests of trafficked persons and their  
3.5 children, and trafficked youth to local law enforcement agencies, courts, county welfare  
3.6 agencies, and local boards or departments of health;

3.7 (5) evidence of an ability to do outreach to unserved and underserved populations  
3.8 and to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services; and

3.9 (6) any other content the commissioner may require after considering the  
3.10 recommendations of the statewide human trafficking task force.

3.11 (b) Programs that have been approved for grants in prior years may submit materials,  
3.12 which indicate changes in items listed in paragraph (a), to qualify for renewal funding.  
3.13 Nothing in this subdivision requires programs to submit complete applications for each  
3.14 year of renewal funding.

3.15 Subd. 4. **Duties of grantees.** (a) Every public or private nonprofit agency that  
3.16 receives a grant to provide emergency shelter services, transitional and permanent  
3.17 housing, and support services to trafficked persons and their children or to trafficked youth  
3.18 shall comply with all requirements of the commissioner related to the administration of  
3.19 the programs.

3.20 (b) Grantees shall submit summary data as defined in section 13.02, subdivision 19,  
3.21 for the purpose of supplementing data on the number of trafficking victims in Minnesota  
3.22 for the report required by section 299A.785.

3.23 Subd. 5. **Classification of data collected by grantees.** Personal history information  
3.24 and other information collected, used, or maintained by a grantee from which the identity  
3.25 or location of any victim of human trafficking may be determined is private data on  
3.26 individuals, as defined in section 13.02, subdivision 12, and the grantee shall maintain  
3.27 the data in accordance with the provisions of chapter 13.

3.28 **Sec. 3. APPROPRIATION.**

3.29 \$...... for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010, is appropriated from the general fund  
3.30 to the commissioner of public safety to implement Minnesota Statutes, section 299A.7954.