

HB 200: FREEDOM FROM HUMAN TRAFFICKING ACT

HB 200 was introduced by Rep. Edward Lindsey and others to enhance accountability for human traffickers and to improve outcomes for trafficking victims. Key provisions include:

Improvements to Human Trafficking Legal Framework

- Expands the definition of “**coercion**” in the human trafficking statute to include causing or threatening financial harm
- Prohibits alleged traffickers from asserting any of the following as a defense to trafficking:
 - The victim’s sexual history or history of commercial sexual activity
 - The fact that the victim is a family member of the defendant
 - The age of consent for sexual activity
 - The fact that the defendant did not know the victim’s age
- Provides an **affirmative defense** to the sexual crimes of prostitution, sodomy, solicitation of sodomy, and masturbation for hire if the defendant was being trafficked for sexual servitude.

Expanding Accountability for Traffickers

- Increases the **penalties for human trafficking**
 - The penalty for trafficking a person for labor or sexual servitude is 10-20 years in prison, a fine of up to \$100,000, or both.
 - For victims under the age of 18, the penalty is 25-50 years or life in prison, a fine of up to \$100,000, or both.
- Allows the property of traffickers to be subject to **forfeiture** under Georgia’s RICO statute
- Changes the **penalties for keeping a place of prostitution, pimping, or pandering**
 - If the victim is at least 16 but less than 18 years old, the crime is a felony and punishable by 5-20 years in prison and a fine of \$2,500 to \$10,000.
 - If the victim is under 16 years old, the crime is a felony and punishable by 10-30 years in prison and a fine of not more than \$100,000.

Expanding Resources for Victims

- Allows trafficking victims to obtain **Crime Victims Compensation Funds** if they suffer a serious mental or emotional trauma
- Requires law enforcement and court personnel to advise trafficking victims of victim compensation available under federal law
- Requires the agencies responsible for training law enforcement to establish **training** regarding methods for:
 - Addressing trafficking incidents
 - Providing proper detention or alternatives to detention for trafficking victims
 - Assisting trafficking victims, including providing information on social service organizations

TAKE ACTION TO SUPPORT HB 200

HB 200 has been assigned to the House Judiciary Non-Civil Committee and will be heard on February 16 at 2:00 p.m. in Room 132 of the Capitol. The Crimes Against Persons Subcommittee will hear the bill initially; if it is reported favorably, the bill will then be heard by the full Committee.

Please contact members of the Committee (subcommittee members are in bold, so please contact them first) and urge them to support HB 200. Let them know that we need to pass HB 200 to send the message that human trafficking will not be tolerated in Georgia and that victims should be treated humanely.

Rep. Rich Golick (Chair) - 404.656.5943
Rep. Mark Hatfield (Vice Chair) - 404.656.0109
Rep. Charlice Byrd (Secretary) - 404.656.0298
Rep. Wendell Willard (Ex-Officio) – 404.656.5125
Rep. Roberta Abdul-Salaam - 404.656.0325
Rep. Stacey Abrams - 404.656.5058
Rep. Alex Atwood - 404.656.0152
Rep. Stephanie Stuckey Benfield - 404.656.7859
Rep. Doug Collins - 404.651.7737
Rep. Christian Coomer - 404.656.0109
Rep. Sharon Cooper - 404.656.5069
Rep. Bobby Franklin - 404.656.0152
Rep. Yasmin Neal - 404.656.0265
Rep. BJ Pak - 404.656.0254
Rep. Matt Ramsey - 404.656.7146
Rep. Nikki Randall - 404.656.0109
Rep. Ed Setzler - 404.656.0177

Additional contact information for members is available at:
<http://www.legis.ga.gov/en-US/default.aspx>.