



General Assembly

**Amendment**

February Session, 2026

LCO No. 5700



Offered by:

REP. DATHAN, 142<sup>nd</sup> Dist.  
SEN. GADKAR-WILCOX, 22<sup>nd</sup> Dist.  
REP. CARNEY, 23<sup>rd</sup> Dist.  
SEN. SAMPSON, 16<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5476

File No. 389

Cal. No. 276

**"AN ACT CONCERNING OVERSIGHT OF EFFORTS TO PREVENT HUMAN TRAFFICKING."**

1 Strike sections 1 and 2 in their entirety and substitute the following  
2 in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section, "human  
4 trafficking" has the same meaning as "trafficking", as defined in section  
5 46a-170 of the general statutes, as amended by this act. The Criminal  
6 Justice Policy and Planning Division within the Office of Policy and  
7 Management shall evaluate the coordination of efforts among executive  
8 branch state agencies and law enforcement agencies to prevent human  
9 trafficking in the state and shall develop a comprehensive plan for how  
10 activities and programs of executive branch state agencies and other  
11 multidisciplinary partners should be coordinated to combat human  
12 trafficking in the state. All executive branch state agencies shall provide  
13 any assistance, information or data needed by the division to perform  
14 the planning duties established under this section, to the extent

15 permitted under state and federal law.

16 (b) Not later than January 1, 2027, the division shall submit a copy of  
17 the comprehensive plan developed under subsection (a) of this section,  
18 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,  
19 to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having  
20 cognizance of matters relating to government oversight, the judiciary  
21 and appropriations and the budgets of state agencies. Such report shall  
22 include, but need not be limited to, any recommendations for legislation  
23 to implement the division's recommendations.

24 Sec. 2. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 46a-170 of the 2026  
25 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is  
26 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

27 (a) There is established a Trafficking in Persons Council that shall be  
28 within the Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and  
29 Opportunity for administrative purposes only.

30 (b) The council shall consist of the following members: (1) The Chief  
31 State's Attorney, or a designee; (2) the Chief Public Defender, or a  
32 designee; (3) the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public  
33 Protection, or the commissioner's designee; (4) the Labor Commissioner,  
34 or the commissioner's designee; (5) the Commissioner of Social Services,  
35 or the commissioner's designee; (6) the Commissioner of Public Health,  
36 or the commissioner's designee; (7) the Commissioner of Mental Health  
37 and Addiction Services, or the commissioner's designee; (8) the  
38 Commissioner of Children and Families, or the commissioner's  
39 designee; (9) the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, or the  
40 commissioner's designee; (10) the Commissioner of Developmental  
41 Services, or the commissioner's designee; (11) the Commissioner of  
42 Transportation, or the commissioner's designee; (12) the director of the  
43 Basic Training Division of the Police Officer Standards and Training  
44 Council, or the director's designee; (13) the Child Advocate, or the Child  
45 Advocate's designee; (14) the Victim Advocate, or the Victim Advocate's  
46 designee; (15) a chairperson of the Commission on Women, Children,

47 Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, or the chairperson's designee; (16) the  
48 Secretary of the State, or the Secretary's designee; (17) one representative  
49 of the Office of Victim Services of the Judicial Branch appointed by the  
50 Chief Court Administrator; [(17)] (18) a municipal police chief  
51 appointed by the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association, or a designee;  
52 [(18)] (19) the Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's  
53 designee; [(19)] (20) a judge of the Superior Court, appointed by the  
54 Chief Court Administrator; [(20)] (21) a state's attorney appointed by the  
55 Chief State's Attorney; [(21)] (22) a public defender appointed by the  
56 Chief Public Defender; and [(22)] (23) sixteen public members appointed  
57 as follows: The Governor shall appoint four members, one of whom  
58 shall represent victims of commercial exploitation of children, one of  
59 whom shall represent sex trafficking victims who are children and one  
60 of whom shall represent a coalition of children's advocacy centers and  
61 multidisciplinary teams that are dedicated to serving child abuse  
62 victims and their families, the president pro tempore of the Senate shall  
63 appoint two members, one of whom shall represent the Connecticut  
64 Alliance to End Sexual Violence and one of whom shall represent an  
65 organization that provides civil legal services to low-income  
66 individuals, the speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint  
67 two members, one of whom shall represent the Connecticut Coalition  
68 Against Domestic Violence and one of whom shall represent the  
69 Connecticut Lodging Association, the majority leader of the Senate shall  
70 appoint two members, one of whom shall represent an organization that  
71 deals with behavioral health needs of women and children and one of  
72 whom shall represent the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness,  
73 the majority leader of the House of Representatives shall appoint two  
74 members, one of whom shall represent an organization that advocates  
75 on social justice and human rights issues and one of whom shall  
76 represent the Connecticut Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, the  
77 minority leader of the Senate shall appoint two members, one of whom  
78 shall represent the Connecticut Immigrant and Refugee Coalition and  
79 one of whom shall represent massage therapists, and the minority  
80 leader of the House of Representatives shall appoint two members, one  
81 of whom shall represent the Motor Transport Association of

82 Connecticut, Inc. and one of whom shall represent an organization that  
83 works with adult victims of trafficking."

84 In line 183, after "department" insert "except such training shall not  
85 be required for employees or providers who do not have regular contact  
86 with children while in the course of employment or while providing  
87 such services. Such training may consist of a recorded training"

88 In line 203, after "children" insert "and adults"

89 Strike lines 210 to 212, inclusive, in their entirety, and substitute the  
90 following in lieu thereof:

91 "Administrator may use a recorded training curriculum to satisfy the  
92 requirements of this section."

93 Strike section 6 in its entirety and substitute the following in lieu  
94 thereof:

95 "Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section, (1)  
96 "child care facility" or "facility" has the same meaning as provided in  
97 section 17a-93 of the general statutes, (2) "operator" means the person  
98 responsible for the total operation of the child care facility, and (3)  
99 "department" means the Department of Children and Families.

100 (b) Any operator of a child care facility shall:

101 (1) Maintain policies covering its plans, program and services which  
102 shall be clearly stated in writing and reviewed for necessary updates not  
103 less than annually and, upon request, submit evidence of such annual  
104 review to the Department of Children and Families, in a manner  
105 prescribed by the department;

106 (2) Maintain personnel policies for the training and education of  
107 employees, temporary workers, volunteers and interns that include, but  
108 are not limited to, (A) introductory orientation; (B) ongoing training and  
109 development; (C) supervision; and (D) annual evaluations;

110 (3) Develop a plan for ongoing training which includes a written  
111 curriculum and a minimum number of hours of annual training, review  
112 such plan not less than once every two years, update such plan as  
113 necessary for consistency with best practices and document the  
114 implementation of such training in a manner prescribed by the  
115 department;

116 (4) Submit to the department not less than once every two years a  
117 written quality assurance plan that describes how the operator intends  
118 to monitor the quality of the facility services, the extent to which the  
119 facility complies with its stated purpose, program objectives, security  
120 requirements and any other requirements of the department, including  
121 any documentation of the implementation of the quality assurance plan,  
122 with findings and, if applicable, an improvement plan, and make  
123 immediately available any revision of the quality assurance plan to staff  
124 of the facility and the department;

125 (5) Provide internal and external security measures necessary to  
126 ensure the safety of residents of the facility; and

127 (6) Provide supervisory staff capable of ensuring (A) the health and  
128 safety of each child; (B) the security and well-being of each child; and  
129 (C) appropriate security of the facility while maintaining a home-like  
130 atmosphere."

131 Strike section 8 in its entirety, and substitute the following in lieu  
132 thereof:

133 "Sec. 8. (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) The Statewide Steering Committee  
134 of the Regionalized Human Trafficking Recovery Taskforce established  
135 by the Division of Criminal Justice shall establish a Human Trafficking  
136 Prevention and Response Subcommittee consisting of members  
137 appointed by the Regionalized Human Trafficking Recovery Taskforce  
138 as necessary to carry out the purposes of this section. Such  
139 subcommittee shall serve as a public-private partnership to implement  
140 the recommendations set forth in the Regionalized Human Trafficking

141 Recovery Taskforce's report entitled "A Blueprint to Strengthen  
142 Connecticut's Response to Human Trafficking".

143 (b) Such implementation shall include, but need not be limited to:

144 (1) Advancing development of a permanent state-wide governing  
145 body to coordinate the state's anti-trafficking response across agencies  
146 and service providers, to assist both minor children and adult victims of  
147 trafficking, as defined in section 46a-170 of the general statutes, as  
148 amended by this act, and to create state-wide standards related to such  
149 coordination;

150 (2) Creating and implementing a standardized, cross-disciplinary  
151 human trafficking training framework and centralized learning  
152 management system;

153 (3) Developing and implementing a unified state-wide data collection  
154 process based on shared definitions, standardized reporting fields and  
155 secure data-sharing protocols;

156 (4) Designing and implementing standardized, trauma-informed  
157 screening questions and referral pathways to ensure consistent  
158 identification of and response to victims of human trafficking across  
159 systems;

160 (5) Expanding and strengthening state-wide service capacity by  
161 mapping and verifying existing providers, identifying service and  
162 funding gaps, and supporting development of a vetted state-wide  
163 resource directory; and

164 (6) Reviewing trafficking trends, identifying systemic gaps and  
165 developing policy recommendations to be submitted to the Trafficking  
166 in Persons Council, established pursuant to section 46a-170 of the  
167 general statutes, as amended by this act, consistent with the work  
168 undertaken pursuant to this subsection.

169 (c) The subcommittee shall not replace or supersede the statutory

170 authority of Trafficking in Persons Council, established pursuant to  
171 section 46a-170 of the general statutes, as amended by this act."

172 Strike lines 377 to 385, inclusive, in their entirety, and substitute the  
173 following in lieu thereof:

174 "(b) The Commissioner of Children and Families [may] shall, within  
175 available appropriations and in collaboration with the Criminal Justice  
176 Policy and Planning Division within the Office of Policy and  
177 Management, provide assistance to the Police Officer Standards and  
178 Training Council in developing training [to] for law enforcement  
179 [officials] officers regarding the trafficking of minor children [. The  
180 training shall include, but not be limited to, (1) awareness and  
181 compliance with the laws and protocols concerning trafficking of minor  
182 children, (2) identification of, access to and provision of services for  
183 minor children who are victims of trafficking, and (3) any other services  
184 the department deems necessary to carry out the provisions of this  
185 section and section 17a-106a] and adults, as described in section 501 of  
186 this act."

187 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and  
188 internal references accordingly:

189 "Sec. 501. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) Each police basic or review  
190 training program conducted or administered by the Police Officer  
191 Standards and Training Council established under section 7-294b of the  
192 general statutes or a municipal police department in the state shall  
193 include training on the trafficking of minor children and adults,  
194 developed pursuant to section 17a-106f of the general statutes, as  
195 amended by this act. The training shall include, but not be limited to, (1)  
196 awareness and compliance with the laws and protocols concerning  
197 trafficking of minor children and adults, (2) identification of, access to  
198 and provision of services for minor children and adults who are victims  
199 of trafficking, and (3) any other services the council deems necessary to  
200 carry out the provisions of sections 17a-106a and 17a-106f of the general  
201 statutes, as amended by this act.

202 Sec. 502. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) Not later than October 1,  
203 2026, the Commissioner of Correction shall enter into an agreement with  
204 an entity that provides a confidential crisis hotline to report incidents of  
205 sexual violence for purposes of making such hotline available to  
206 correction officers and persons who are incarcerated in a correctional  
207 institution, including, but not limited to, the York Correctional  
208 Institution. The Department of Correction shall ensure that persons who  
209 are incarcerated can access such hotline at no charge, with no time limit,  
210 and confidentially without the supervision of, or permission from, any  
211 employee of the Department of Correction.

212 (b) Upon entering into such agreement, the department shall inform  
213 all existing correction officers of such hotline and thereafter shall inform  
214 any correction officers upon hiring of such hotline. The department shall  
215 post posters in each correctional institution where the hotline is  
216 accessible to inform persons who are incarcerated concerning how to  
217 access such hotline.

218 Sec. 503. Subsections (a) and (b) of section 4-68m of the 2026  
219 supplement to the general statutes are repealed and the following is  
220 substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

221 (a) There is established a Criminal Justice Policy and Planning  
222 Division within the Office of Policy and Management. The division shall  
223 be under the direction of an undersecretary.

224 (b) The division shall promote a more effective and cohesive state  
225 criminal justice system by:

226 (1) Conducting an in-depth analysis of the criminal justice system;

227 (2) Determining the long-range needs of the criminal justice system  
228 and recommending policy priorities for the system;

229 (3) Identifying critical problems in the criminal justice system and  
230 recommending strategies to solve those problems;

- 231 (4) Assessing the cost-effectiveness of the use of state and local funds  
232 in the criminal justice system;
- 233 (5) Recommending means to improve the deterrent and rehabilitative  
234 capabilities of the criminal justice system;
- 235 (6) Advising and assisting the General Assembly in developing plans,  
236 programs and proposed legislation for improving the effectiveness of  
237 the criminal justice system;
- 238 (7) Making computations of daily costs and comparing interagency  
239 costs on services provided by agencies that are a part of the criminal  
240 justice system;
- 241 (8) Making population computations for use in planning for the long-  
242 range needs of the criminal justice system;
- 243 (9) Determining long-range information needs of the criminal justice  
244 system and acquiring that information;
- 245 (10) Cooperating with the Office of the Victim Advocate by providing  
246 information and assistance to the office relating to the improvement of  
247 crime victims' services;
- 248 (11) Serving as the liaison for the state to the United States  
249 Department of Justice on criminal justice issues of interest to the state  
250 and federal government relating to data, information systems and  
251 research;
- 252 (12) Measuring the success of community-based services and  
253 programs in reducing recidivism;
- 254 (13) Developing and implementing a comprehensive reentry strategy  
255 as provided in section 18-81w;
- 256 (14) Engaging in other activities consistent with the responsibilities of  
257 the division; [and]

258 (15) Advising and providing assistance to the state concerning  
 259 development of coordination of trafficking prevention efforts among  
 260 executive branch state agencies and other multidisciplinary partners,  
 261 including, but not limited to, assisting in providing training pursuant to  
 262 section 17a-106f, as amended by this act; and

263 ~~[(15)]~~ (16) Developing and implementing policies for the state-wide  
 264 delivery of postsecondary educational programs in correctional  
 265 facilities, including, but not limited to, policies pertaining to federal Pell  
 266 grants and prison education programs."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2026	New section
Sec. 2	July 1, 2026	46a-170(a) and (b)
Sec. 6	October 1, 2026	New section
Sec. 8	July 1, 2026	New section
Sec. 501	October 1, 2026	New section
Sec. 502	July 1, 2026	New section
Sec. 503	July 1, 2026	4-68m(a) and (b)