HOUSE RESEARCH **ORGANIZATION** bill digest

5/8/2019

HB 3800 (2nd reading) S. Thompson (CSHB 3800 by Burns)

SUBJECT: Requiring reporting of human trafficking cases

COMMITTEE: Homeland Security and Public Safety — committee substitute

recommended

VOTE: 9 ayes — Nevárez, Paul, Burns, Calanni, Clardy, Goodwin, Israel, Lang,

Tinderholt

0 nays

WITNESSES: For — (Registered, but did not testify: Chas Moore, Austin Justice

> Coalition; Jason Sabo, Children at Risk; Ender Reed, Harris County Commissioners Court; Kathryn Freeman, Texas Baptists Christian Life Commission; Bryan Mares, Texas CASA; Amelia Casas, Texas Criminal

Justice Coalition; Lonzo Kerr, Texas NAACP; and six individuals)

Against — None

On — (Registered, but did not testify: Adrienne McFarland, Office of the

Attorney General; Matt Kammer-Kerwick; Bruce Kellison)

**BACKGROUND:** Concerned parties have noted that data on human trafficking crimes is not

being collected in a centralized database.

DIGEST: CSHB 3800 would require certain law enforcement entities and

> prosecutors to report cases of human trafficking to the attorney general. The attorney general would have to enter into a contract with a university that could assist in the collection and analysis of the collected information.

> The bill would apply to municipal police departments, sheriff's departments, constable's offices, county attorney's offices, district attorney's offices, and criminal district attorney's offices in a county with a population of more than 50,000. It also would apply to the Department of

Public Safety (DPS).

Law enforcement entities that investigated certain crimes that could

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involve human trafficking and state attorneys that prosecuted those crimes would have to report the following information to the attorney general:

- the offense that was being investigated or prosecuted and a brief description of the alleged prohibited conduct;
- the age, gender, and race or ethnicity of each suspect and the case number associated with that suspect;
- the date, time, and location of the alleged offense;
- the type of human trafficking involved;
- information regarding any victims' service organization or program to which the victim was referred, if available; and
- the disposition of the investigation or prosecution, regardless of its manner.

An attorney representing the state also would have to include in the report any other charged offense that was part of the same criminal episode.

The attorney general would consult with law enforcement entities to adopt rules to administer the bill, including rules on submitting reports and additional information to include in reports.

DPS and law enforcement entities located in a county with a population of more than 500,000 would not have to comply with the bill until August 1, 2020. Law enforcement entities located in a county with a population of less than 500,000 would not have to comply until August 1, 2021.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.