

REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

DATE: May 27, 2016

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections,
Intergovernmental Relations, and Neighborhoods Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso 
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No: 15-0002-S147
Assignment No: 16-05-0461

SUBJECT: AB 1595 – Transit Human Trafficking Training

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Approve Resolution (Martinez - Harris-Dawson - Price - Wesson) to include in the City of Los Angeles 2015-2016 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for AB 1595 (Campos) that would amend the California Labor Code to add a provision to require that a private or public employer that provides mass transportation services in the State train its employees who are likely to interact or come into contact with victims of human trafficking to recognize the signs of human trafficking and how to report those signs to the appropriate law enforcement agency by January 1, 2018.

SUMMARY

Resolution (Martinez - Harris-Dawson - Price - Wesson) notes that the Department of Homeland Security has initiated the “Blue Campaign” to combat human trafficking through public awareness, training, victim assistance, and enhance law enforcement investigations. The Resolution notes that human trafficking occurs when a person deprives or violates the personal liberty of another with the intent to obtain forced labor or services. The Resolution notes that AB 1595, currently pending in the State legislature, would amend the California Labor Code to require public and private operators of mass transit systems to train their employees to recognize the signs of human trafficking and how to report those signs to the appropriate authorities. The Resolution recommends that the City support AB 1595 to further efforts to provide training and education on identifying the signs of human trafficking and to generate public awareness around this issue.

BACKGROUND

According to the author, this bill seeks to increase awareness of human trafficking, particularly in regard to who is at risk, and how to identify and report the signs of human trafficking. AB 1595 expands the approach taken by the Santa Clara County Valley Transportation Authority, San Francisco Airport, the US Department of Transportation, and many other organizations concerned about human trafficking by requiring all mass transit agencies across this state to train their employees in how to recognize the signs of human trafficking and how to make the appropriate reports to law enforcement agencies.

The Attorney General's office reports that human trafficking is the world's fastest growing criminal enterprise, with a global industry estimated at \$32 billion-a-year. The human trafficking industry affects more than 20.9 million people globally. Notably, 72% of all human

trafficking survivors are U.S citizens, with 80% of human trafficking victims in the U.S being women, and 50% being children who attend school in the day and are trafficked at night. From mid-2010 to mid-2012, California's nine regional human trafficking task forces identified 1,277 victims, initiated 2,552 investigations, and arrested 1,798 individuals. In the same two-year period, California's task forces provided training to 25,591 law enforcement personnel, prosecutors, victim service providers, and other first responders. Several non-governmental organizations have also trained judicial officers, airport personnel, social service providers, pro bono attorneys, and retail businesses, among others.

California's anti-human trafficking efforts have historically focused on prevention, protection, prosecution, and, more recently, training. Training programs are offered statewide to victim service providers, medical professionals, law enforcement, airport personnel, and others. Consistent with this focus on training, AB 1595 would require that all public and private mass transit operators provide training to their staff who are likely to interact or come into contact with victims of human trafficking, in recognizing the signs of human trafficking and how to report those signs to the appropriate law enforcement agency. The Department of Justice would be directed to prepare the guidelines for the training program. Training is to be completed by January 1, 2018.

The Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority has approved a position in support of AB 1595.

Support for AB 1595 would be consistent with past City legislative action to increase public awareness of human trafficking.

BILL HISTORY

May 11	In committee: Set, first hearing. Referred to APPR. suspense file.
Apr. 21	From committee: Do pass and re-refer to Com. on APPR. (Ayes 6. Noes 0.). Re-referred to Com. on APPR.
Mar. 29	From committee chair, with author's amendments: Amend, and re-refer to Com. on L. & E. Read second time and amended.
Feb. 1	Referred to Com. on L. & E.
Jan. 6	Read first time. To print.

John Wickham
Analyst

Attachment: Resolution (Martinez - Harris-Dawson - Price - Wesson)

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, the Department of Homeland Security launched the "Blue Campaign" to combat human trafficking through enhanced public awareness, training, victim assistance, and law enforcement investigations; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, the U.S. Department of Transportation and Amtrak provided training and awareness materials on human trafficking to its employees as part of the Blue Campaign; and

WHEREAS, existing law established the California Division of Labor Standards Enforcement in the Department of Industrial Relations for the enforcement of labor laws, and establishes certain obligations on an employer, including requiring an employer to post specified wage and hour information in a location where it can be viewed by employees; and

WHEREAS, under existing law a person who deprives or violates the personal liberty of another with the intent to obtain forced labor or services is guilty of the crime of human trafficking; and

WHEREAS, currently pending before the State Assembly is AB 1595 (Campos) that would amend the California Labor Code to add a provision to require that a private or public employer that provides mass transportation services in the State train its employees who are likely to interact or come into contact with victims of human trafficking to recognize the signs of human trafficking and how to report those signs to the appropriate law enforcement agency; and

WHEREAS, mass transportation services include, but are not limited to, buses, trains, and light rail, but does not include taxi services or travel by air; and

WHEREAS, this bill would also require that the training be incorporated into the initial training process for all new employees and that all existing employees receive the training by January 1, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles should support AB 1595 to further the efforts to provide training and education on identifying human trafficking and generate public awareness around this issue;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOVLED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2015-2016 State Legislative Program support of AB 1595 (Campos) that would amend the California Labor Code to add a provision to require that a private or public employer that provides mass transportation services in the State train its employees who are likely to interact or come into contact with victims of human trafficking to recognize the signs of human trafficking and how to report those signs to the appropriate law enforcement agency by January 1, 2018.

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PRESENTED BY: 
NURY MARTINEZ
Councilmember, 6th District

SECONDED BY: 