



General Assembly

February Session, 2026

***Raised Bill No. 5476***

LCO No. 2703



Referred to Committee on GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT

Introduced by:  
(GOS)

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

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) There is established, within  
2 the Office of Policy and Management, a Human Trafficking Prevention  
3 Coordinator. The coordinator shall be appointed by the Secretary of the  
4 Office of Policy and Management, and shall have experience with  
5 working with victims of human trafficking. The coordinator shall  
6 coordinate the efforts among executive branch state agencies and law  
7 enforcement to prevent human trafficking in the state.

8 (b) The coordinator (1) shall conduct comprehensive planning on  
9 efforts to combat human trafficking in the state and coordinate the  
10 activities and programs of executive branch state agencies in prevention  
11 efforts; (2) shall work in partnership with the Trafficking in Persons  
12 Council, and other multidisciplinary partners to help align state-wide  
13 prevention, identification and response activities; (3) may enter into  
14 such contractual agreements, in accordance with established  
15 procedures, as may be necessary for the discharge of the coordinator's  
16 duties; and (4) unless otherwise provided by law, may receive any

17 money, revenue or services from the federal government, corporations,  
18 associations or individuals. All executive branch state agencies shall  
19 provide any information or data needed by the coordinator to perform  
20 the duties established under this section.

21 (c) The coordinator shall develop and implement a training  
22 curriculum which may consist of recorded trainings, which can be  
23 adapted for specific state agencies. Such training shall implement best  
24 practices and include, but need not be limited to, (1) awareness and  
25 compliance with the laws and protocols concerning trafficking of minor  
26 children, (2) identification of, access to and provision of services for  
27 victims of trafficking, (3) de-escalation and harm reduction techniques  
28 when encountering victims of trafficking, and (4) techniques on  
29 receiving disclosures of trauma from minor children and adults. The  
30 coordinator may offer such training to state agencies, law enforcement  
31 agencies, health care facilities, human services agencies, school  
32 personnel and nonprofit organizations.

33 (d) The coordinator shall create a database for state agencies to report  
34 incidents of human trafficking in the state. Such database shall protect  
35 the personal information of any victims of human trafficking and such  
36 information shall not be disclosed under the Freedom of Information  
37 Act, as defined in section 1-200 of the general statutes.

38 (e) The coordinator shall develop and maintain a state-wide  
39 directory, organized by region, that identifies providers of services for  
40 victims of human trafficking. The coordinator shall evaluate the  
41 availability of such services and identify any gaps in funding or  
42 geographic regions where services are lacking.

43 (f) Not later than January 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, the  
44 coordinator shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of  
45 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of  
46 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
47 government oversight, the judiciary and appropriations and the

48 budgets of state agencies. Such report shall include, but need not be  
49 limited to, the activities of the coordinator during the prior year, any  
50 recommendations and any recommendations for legislation to  
51 implement the coordinator's recommendations.

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

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

58 (b) The council shall consist of the following members: (1) The Chief  
59 State's Attorney, or a designee; (2) the Chief Public Defender, or a  
60 designee; (3) the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public  
61 Protection, or the commissioner's designee; (4) the Labor Commissioner,  
62 or the commissioner's designee; (5) the Commissioner of Social Services,  
63 or the commissioner's designee; (6) the Commissioner of Public Health,  
64 or the commissioner's designee; (7) the Commissioner of Mental Health  
65 and Addiction Services, or the commissioner's designee; (8) the  
66 Commissioner of Children and Families, or the commissioner's  
67 designee; (9) the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, or the  
68 commissioner's designee; (10) the Commissioner of Developmental  
69 Services, or the commissioner's designee; (11) the Commissioner of  
70 Transportation, or the commissioner's designee; (12) the director of the  
71 Basic Training Division of the Police Officer Standards and Training  
72 Council, or the director's designee; (13) the Child Advocate, or the Child  
73 Advocate's designee; (14) the Victim Advocate, or the Victim Advocate's  
74 designee; (15) a chairperson of the Commission on Women, Children,  
75 Seniors, Equity and Opportunity, or the chairperson's designee; (16) the  
76 Secretary of the State, or a designee; (17) the Human Trafficking  
77 Prevention Coordinator; (18) one representative of the Office of Victim  
78 Services of the Judicial Branch appointed by the Chief Court  
79 Administrator; [(17)] (19) a municipal police chief appointed by the

80 Connecticut Police Chiefs Association, or a designee; [(18)] (20) the  
81 Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee; [(19)] (21)  
82 a judge of the Superior Court, appointed by the Chief Court  
83 Administrator; [(20)] (22) a state's attorney appointed by the Chief  
84 State's Attorney; [(21)] (23) a public defender appointed by the Chief  
85 Public Defender; and [(22)] (24) sixteen public members appointed as  
86 follows: The Governor shall appoint four members, one of whom shall  
87 represent victims of commercial exploitation of children, one of whom  
88 shall represent sex trafficking victims who are children and one of  
89 whom shall represent a coalition of children's advocacy centers and  
90 multidisciplinary teams that are dedicated to serving child abuse  
91 victims and their families, the president pro tempore of the Senate shall  
92 appoint two members, one of whom shall represent the Connecticut  
93 Alliance to End Sexual Violence and one of whom shall represent an  
94 organization that provides civil legal services to low-income  
95 individuals, the speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint  
96 two members, one of whom shall represent the Connecticut Coalition  
97 Against Domestic Violence and one of whom shall represent the  
98 Connecticut Lodging Association, the majority leader of the Senate shall  
99 appoint two members, one of whom shall represent an organization that  
100 deals with behavioral health needs of women and children and one of  
101 whom shall represent the Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness,  
102 the majority leader of the House of Representatives shall appoint two  
103 members, one of whom shall represent an organization that advocates  
104 on social justice and human rights issues and one of whom shall  
105 represent the Connecticut Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, the  
106 minority leader of the Senate shall appoint two members, one of whom  
107 shall represent the Connecticut Immigrant and Refugee Coalition and  
108 one of whom shall represent massage therapists, and the minority  
109 leader of the House of Representatives shall appoint two members, one  
110 of whom shall represent the Motor Transport Association of  
111 Connecticut, Inc. and one of whom shall represent an organization that  
112 works with adult victims of trafficking.

113 Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 17a-3 of the general statutes is  
114 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
115 *1, 2026*):

116 (b) The state-wide program of services shall provide services and  
117 placements that are clinically indicated and appropriate to the needs of  
118 each child or youth. In furtherance of this purpose, the department shall:  
119 (1) Develop a comprehensive program for prevention and treatment of  
120 problems experienced by children and youths and provide a flexible,  
121 innovative and effective program for the placement, care and treatment  
122 of children and youths committed by any court to the department,  
123 transferred to the department by other departments, or voluntarily  
124 admitted to the department; (2) provide appropriate services to the  
125 families of children and youths as needed to achieve the purposes of  
126 sections 17a-1 to 17a-26, inclusive, 17a-28 to 17a-49, inclusive, and 17a-  
127 51; (3) establish incentive paid work programs for children and youths  
128 under the care of the department and the rates to be paid such children  
129 and youths for work done in such programs, and may provide  
130 allowances to children and youths in the custody of the department; (4)  
131 collect, interpret and publish statistics relating to children and youths  
132 committed to the department; (5) conduct studies of any program,  
133 service or facility developed, operated, contracted for, licensed or  
134 supported by the department in order to evaluate its effectiveness; (6)  
135 establish staff development and other training and educational  
136 programs designed to improve the quality of departmental services and  
137 programs, which shall include, but not be limited to, training in the  
138 prevention, identification and effects of family violence and the training  
139 on human trafficking developed under section 4 of this act, and may  
140 establish educational or training programs for children, youths, parents  
141 or other interested persons on any matter related to the promotion of  
142 the well-being of children, including, but not limited to, the prevention  
143 and treatment of mental illness, substance use disorders and other  
144 disabilities in children and youths; (7) require each social worker trainee  
145 to complete the training in the prevention, identification and effects of

146 family violence established pursuant to subdivision (6) of this  
147 subsection and on and after January 1, 2027, the training on human  
148 trafficking developed under section 4 of this act, prior to being assigned  
149 a case load; (8) develop and implement aftercare and follow-up services  
150 appropriate to the needs of any child or youth under the care of the  
151 department; (9) establish a case audit unit to monitor each regional  
152 office's compliance with regulations and procedures; (10) develop and  
153 maintain a database listing available community service programs  
154 funded by the department; (11) provide outreach and assistance to  
155 persons caring for children whose parents are unable to care for such  
156 children by informing such persons of programs and benefits for which  
157 they may be eligible; and (12) collect data sufficient to identify the  
158 housing needs of children served by the department and share such data  
159 with the Department of Housing.

160 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of  
161 Children and Families shall, within available appropriations, develop  
162 and provide training to all employees of the Department of Children  
163 and Families and all providers that provide services pursuant to a  
164 contract with the department, regarding the trafficking of minor  
165 children. The training shall include, but need not be limited to, (1)  
166 awareness and compliance with the laws and protocols concerning  
167 trafficking of minor children, (2) identification of, access to and  
168 provision of services for minor children who are victims of trafficking,  
169 (3) de-escalation and harm reduction techniques when encountering  
170 minor children who are victims of trafficking, and (4) techniques on  
171 receiving disclosures of trauma from minor children. The commissioner  
172 may use the training curriculum developed by the Human Trafficking  
173 Prevention Coordinator pursuant to section 1 of this act to satisfy the  
174 requirements of this section.

175 (b) Each employee of the department or contracted-with provider  
176 shall complete the initial educational training program not later than  
177 July 1, 2027, and shall complete the refresher training program every  
178 three years thereafter, provided any such employee shall complete such

179 initial educational training program not later than six months after  
180 beginning such employment or July 1, 2027, whichever is later, or in the  
181 case of a provider, not later than six months after entering into a contract  
182 with the department or July 1, 2027, whichever is later.

183       Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) The Chief Court  
184 Administrator shall, within available appropriations, develop and  
185 provide training to all employees of the Court Support Services Division  
186 within the Judicial Branch regarding the trafficking of minor children.  
187 The training shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) awareness and  
188 compliance with the laws and protocols concerning human trafficking,  
189 (2) identification of, access to and provision of services for victims of  
190 trafficking, (3) de-escalation and harm reduction techniques when  
191 encountering victims of human trafficking, and (4) techniques on  
192 receiving disclosures of trauma from minor children. The Chief Court  
193 Administrator may use the training curriculum developed by the  
194 Human Trafficking Prevention Coordinator pursuant to section 1 of this  
195 act to satisfy the requirements of this section.

196       (b) Each employee of the division shall complete the initial  
197 educational training program not later than July 1, 2027, and shall  
198 complete the refresher training program every three years thereafter,  
199 provided any such employee shall complete such initial educational  
200 training program not later than six months after beginning such  
201 employment or July 1, 2027, whichever is later.

202       Sec. 6. (*Effective from passage*) Not later than July 1, 2027, the  
203 Commissioner of Children and Families, in conjunction with the  
204 appropriate local law enforcement agency, shall assess the security of  
205 the placement location, whether public or private, of any child who is  
206 placed in out-of-home care by the Department of Children and Families  
207 pursuant to an emergency order under subsection (e) of section 17a-101g  
208 of the general statutes or an order of temporary custody or an order of  
209 commitment under section 46b-129 of the general statutes, and  
210 determine whether additional lighting, security cameras or other

211 measures are needed to increase the security of such location. Not later  
212 than August 1, 2027, the commissioner shall submit a report, in  
213 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,  
214 to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having  
215 cognizance of matters relating to children and government oversight.  
216 Such report shall include the results of such assessment.

217 Sec. 7. Subsection (a) of section 46a-13l of the general statutes is  
218 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
219 *2026*):

220 (a) The Child Advocate shall:

221 (1) Evaluate the delivery of services to children by state agencies and  
222 those entities that provide services to children through funds provided  
223 by the state;

224 (2) Review periodically the procedures established by any state  
225 agency providing services to children to carry out the provisions of  
226 sections 46a-13k to 46a-13p, inclusive, with a view toward the rights of  
227 the children and recommend revisions to such procedures;

228 (3) Review complaints of persons concerning the actions of any state  
229 or municipal agency providing services to children and of any entity  
230 that provides services to children through funds provided by the state,  
231 make appropriate referrals and investigate those where the Child  
232 Advocate determines that a child or family may be in need of assistance  
233 from the Child Advocate or that a systemic issue in the state's provision  
234 of services to children is raised by the complaint;

235 (4) Pursuant to an investigation, provide assistance to a child or  
236 family who the Child Advocate determines is in need of such assistance  
237 including, but not limited to, advocating with an agency, provider or  
238 others on behalf of the best interests of the child;

239 (5) Periodically review the facilities and procedures of any and all

240 institutions or residences, public or private, where a juvenile has been  
241 placed by any agency or department, including, but not limited to,  
242 Specialized Trauma-Informed Treatment Assessment and Reunification  
243 Enhancement Plan homes;

244 (6) Recommend changes in state policies concerning children  
245 including changes in the system of providing juvenile justice, child care,  
246 foster care and treatment;

247 (7) Take all possible action including, but not limited to, conducting  
248 programs of public education, undertaking legislative advocacy and  
249 making proposals for systemic reform and formal legal action, in order  
250 to secure and ensure the legal, civil and special rights of children who  
251 reside in this state;

252 (8) Provide training and technical assistance to attorneys  
253 representing children and guardians ad litem appointed by the Superior  
254 Court;

255 (9) Periodically review the number of special needs children in any  
256 foster care or permanent care facility and recommend changes in the  
257 policies and procedures for the placement of such children;

258 (10) Serve or designate a person to serve as a member of the child  
259 fatality review panel established in subsection (b) of this section;

260 (11) Take appropriate steps to advise the public of the services of the  
261 Office of the Child Advocate, the purpose of the office and procedures  
262 to contact the office;

263 (12) Prepare an in-depth report on conditions of confinement,  
264 including, but not limited to, compliance with section 46a-152,  
265 regarding children twenty-one years of age or younger who are held in  
266 secure detention or correctional confinement in any facility operated by  
267 a state agency. Such report shall be submitted, in accordance with the  
268 provisions of section 11-4a, to the joint standing committee of the

269 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to children not  
270 later than March 1, 2017, and every two years thereafter; [and]

271 (13) Prepare an in-depth report on the treatment needs and stability  
272 of placement for children in Specialized Trauma-Informed Treatment  
273 Assessment and Reunification homes, group homes and residential  
274 facilities, by reviewing a sampling of children in such placements with  
275 emphasis on (A) information on child welfare histories, (B) the number  
276 of placements, and (C) the lengths of stay in the placements, and submit  
277 such report to the Juvenile Justice Policy and Oversight Committee  
278 established pursuant to section 46b-121n; and

279 ~~[(13)]~~ (14) Present to the advisory committee, established pursuant to  
280 section 46a-13r at least three times each year, a report on the goals of and  
281 projects undertaken by the Office of the Child Advocate, within  
282 available appropriations, that are consistent with the responsibilities of  
283 the Child Advocate.

284 Sec. 8. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a temporary task  
285 force to be known as the Human Trafficking Prevention and Response  
286 Task Force, which shall (1) be made up of the existing membership of  
287 the Statewide Steering Committee of the Regionalized Human  
288 Trafficking Recovery Taskforce established by the Division of Criminal  
289 Justice, including representation from relevant state agencies, law  
290 enforcement, prosecutors, providers that specialize in providing  
291 services to trafficking victims, child advocacy centers and  
292 multidisciplinary teams, survivor-informed representatives and other  
293 members appointed by the Regionalized Human Trafficking Recovery  
294 Taskforce as necessary to carry out the purposes of this section, and (2)  
295 serve as a public-private partnership to implement the  
296 recommendations set forth in the Regionalized Human Trafficking  
297 Recovery Taskforce's report entitled "A Blueprint to Strengthen  
298 Connecticut's Response to Human Trafficking".

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

300 (1) Advancing development of a permanent state-wide governing  
301 body to coordinate the state's anti-trafficking response across agencies  
302 and service providers and to create state-wide standards related to such  
303 coordination;

304 (2) Creating and implementing a standardized, cross-disciplinary  
305 human trafficking training framework and centralized learning  
306 management system;

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

310 (4) Designing and implementing standardized, trauma-informed  
311 screening questions and referral pathways to ensure consistent  
312 identification of and response to victims of human trafficking across  
313 systems;

314 (5) Expanding and strengthening state-wide service capacity by  
315 mapping and verifying existing providers, identifying service and  
316 funding gaps and supporting development of a vetted state-wide  
317 resource directory; and

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

323 (c) The task force shall not replace or supersede the statutory  
324 authority of Trafficking in Persons Council established pursuant to  
325 section 46a-170 of the general statutes, as amended by this act.

326 (d) Not later than January 1, 2027, and annually thereafter until three  
327 years after the effective date of this section or the submission of a final  
328 report, whichever is later, the task force shall submit a report, in

329 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,  
330 to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having  
331 cognizance of matters relating to government oversight and the  
332 judiciary. Such report shall include any activities of the task force during  
333 the year preceding the report, and the final report shall detail the  
334 proposed structure, authority and funding of the permanent state-wide  
335 governing body described in subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this  
336 section. The task force shall terminate on the date that it submits such  
337 final report.

338 Sec. 9. Subsection (b) of section 17a-106a of the general statutes is  
339 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1,*  
340 *2026*):

341 (b) The Commissioner of Children and Families, as department head  
342 of the lead agency, and the appropriate state's attorney [may] shall  
343 establish multidisciplinary teams for the purposes of (1) reviewing  
344 particular cases or particular types of cases, (2) coordinating the  
345 intervention in and prevention of child abuse or neglect or trafficking of  
346 children and the treatment of abused, neglected or trafficked children in  
347 each judicial district, (3) reviewing selected cases of child abuse or  
348 neglect or trafficking of children, (4) advancing and coordinating the  
349 prompt investigation of suspected cases of child abuse or neglect or  
350 trafficking of children, (5) reducing the trauma experienced by alleged  
351 victims of such abuse or neglect or trafficking and, (6) ensuring the  
352 treatment of abused, neglected or trafficked children and the protection  
353 of such children and their families. The head of the local law  
354 enforcement agency or such head's designee may request the assistance  
355 of the Division of State Police within the Department of Emergency  
356 Services and Public Protection in order to accomplish such purposes.

357 Sec. 10. Section 17a-106f of the general statutes is repealed and the  
358 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2026*):

359 (a) The Commissioner of Children and Families [may] shall: (1)

360 Provide child welfare services for any minor child residing in the state  
 361 who is identified by the Department of Children and Families as a  
 362 victim of trafficking, as defined in section 46a-170, as amended by this  
 363 act; and (2) provide appropriate services to a minor child residing in the  
 364 state who the Department of Children and Families reasonably believes  
 365 may be a victim of trafficking in order to safeguard the welfare of such  
 366 minor child. For purposes of this section and section 17a-106a, as  
 367 amended by this act, "minor child" means any person under eighteen  
 368 years of age.

369 (b) The Commissioner of Children and Families [may] shall, within  
 370 available appropriations, provide training to law enforcement officials  
 371 regarding the trafficking of minor children. The training shall include,  
 372 but not be limited to, (1) awareness and compliance with the laws and  
 373 protocols concerning trafficking of minor children, (2) identification of,  
 374 access to and provision of services for minor children who are victims  
 375 of trafficking, and (3) any other services the department deems  
 376 necessary to carry out the provisions of this section and section 17a-106a,  
 377 as amended by this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	46a-170(a) and (b)
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	17a-3(b)
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2026</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	46a-131(a)
Sec. 8	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 9	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	17a-106a(b)
Sec. 10	<i>July 1, 2026</i>	17a-106f

**Statement of Purpose:**

To establish a Human Trafficking Prevention Coordinator, add additional members to the Trafficking in Persons Council, require all

employees of the Department of Children and Families and the Court Support Services Division to undergo training regarding human trafficking, require the Commissioner of Children and Families to assess the security of placement locations, require the Child Advocate to submit an annual report, establish a temporary task force and make various duties of the Department of Children and Families concerning trafficking mandatory.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*