

1 **ENROLLED**

2 **H. B. 2161**

3  
4 (By Delegates Fleischauer, Pasdon, Storch, Guthrie, Border,  
5 L. Phillips, Moore, Hamilton, Sobonya, Miller and Manchin)  
6

7 [Passed March 14, 2015; in effect ninety days from passage.]  
8

9 AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article,  
10 designated §15-14-1, §15-14-2, §15-14-3, §15-14-4, §15-14-5 and §15-14-6; to amend and  
11 reenact §61-2-17 of said code; to amend said code by adding thereto two new sections,  
12 designated §61-2-17a and §61-2-17b; and to amend and reenact §62-1D-8 of said code, all  
13 relating to adopting the Uniform Act on Prevention of and Remedies for Human Trafficking;  
14 creating a Commission on the Prevention of Human Trafficking; requiring the public posting  
15 of hotline information in certain business and public locations; making services available to  
16 victims of human trafficking; providing victims immunity from criminal prosecution for  
17 certain crimes directly resulting from human trafficking; changing the definition of human  
18 trafficking; expanding criminal remedies and enforcement tools to combat human trafficking  
19 and allowing victims to petition the circuit court to vacate and expunge a conviction for  
20 certain crimes directly resulting from human trafficking.

21 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

22 That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new  
23 article, designated §15-14-1, §15-14-2, §15-14-3, §15-14-4, §15-14-5 and §15-14-6; that §61-2-17

1 of said code be amended and reenacted; that said code be amended by adding thereto two new  
2 sections, designated §61-2-17a and §61-2-17b; and that §62-1D-8 of said code be amended and  
3 reenacted, all to read as follows:

4 **CHAPTER 15. PUBLIC SAFETY.**

5 **ARTICLE 14. UNIFORM ACT ON PREVENTION OF AND REMEDIES FOR HUMAN**  
6 **TRAFFICKING.**

7 **§15-14-1. Short title.**

8 This article may be cited as the Uniform Act on Prevention of and Remedies for Human  
9 Trafficking.

10 **§15-14-2. Legislative findings.**

11 (a) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that:

12 (1) Human trafficking constitutes a serious problem in West Virginia and across the nation;

13 (2) Human trafficking is abhorrent to a civilized society and deserving of the most diligent  
14 response from the state;

15 (3) Human trafficking often involves minors who have been forced into involuntary servitude  
16 and commercial sexual activity;

17 (4) Human trafficking can take many forms, but generally includes the use of physical abuse,  
18 threats of harm, or fear of other consequences to prevent victims from reporting the activity; and

19 (5) Human trafficking creates a cycle of violence, impacting victims, families, and  
20 communities.

21 (b) The Legislature further finds and declares that:

22 (1) Legislation is required to combat this despicable practice, to make it easier to prosecute

1 and punish persons who engage in human trafficking and to protect and support the victims; and

2 (2) The Legislature supports a comprehensive approach to combating human trafficking,  
3 which approach includes prevention, protection, prosecution, and partnerships.

4 (c) Now, therefore, the Legislature joins the federal government and other states around the  
5 nation in passing legislation in order to combat human trafficking and protect the victims.

6 **§15-14-3. Definitions.**

7 Unless otherwise specified in this article, the terms used in this article have same meaning  
8 ascribed to them by section seventeen, article two, chapter sixty-one of this code. "Commission"  
9 means the Commission on the Prevention of Human Trafficking.

10 **§15-14-4. Commission on the Prevention of Human Trafficking.**

11 (a) The Commission on Human Trafficking is hereby created. Membership on the  
12 commission consists of the following:

13 (1) The Director of the Division of Justice and Community Service or a designee;

14 (2) The Attorney General, or a designee;

15 (3) The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Resources, or a designee;

16 (4) The Superintendent of the State Police, or a designee;

17 (5) The Commissioner of Labor, or a designee;

18 (6) The Commissioner of the Division of Highways, or a designee;

19 (7) The Director of Juvenile Services, or a designee;

20 (8) A representative of the West Virginia Sheriff's Association, selected by the membership  
21 of the Association;

22 (9) A representative from the membership of the West Virginia Chiefs of Police Association,

1 selected by the membership of the Association;

2 (10) A representative of the West Virginia Prosecuting Attorneys Association, selected by  
3 the leadership of the Association;

4 (11) A representative from the membership of the West Virginia Foundation for Rape and  
5 Information Services, selected by the membership of the Foundation;

6 (12) A representative from the membership of the West Virginia Child Advocacy Network,  
7 selected by the membership of the Network; and

8 (13) A representative from the membership of the West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic  
9 Violence, selected by the membership of the Coalition;

10 (b) The state agencies represented on the commission created under this section shall provide  
11 staff to the commission.

12 (c) The first meeting of the commission shall be held no later than September 1, 2015, where  
13 the members of the commission shall elect a chairperson. Thereafter, the commission shall meet at  
14 least twice each calendar year. Meetings may be held via teleconference or other electronic means.

15 A majority of the members of the council constitute a quorum.

16 (d) The commission created under this section shall:

17 (1) Develop a coordinated and comprehensive plan to provide victims with services;

18 (2) Promote public awareness about human trafficking, victim remedies and services, and  
19 trafficking prevention;

20 (3) Create a public-awareness poster that contains the National Human Trafficking Resource  
21 Center hotline information;

22 (4) Develop a concise card or brochure for victims, concerning their rights to any state,

1 federal, or privately funded services;

2 (5) Coordinate training on human-trafficking prevention and victim services for state and  
3 local employees who may have recurring contact with victims or perpetrators; and

4 (6) Submit a report to the Governor and the Joint Committee on Government and Finance  
5 summarizing the accomplishments of the commission during the preceding fiscal year and making  
6 recommendations regarding the development and coordination of the state's responses to fight human  
7 trafficking and support victims.

8 **§15-14-5. Display of public-awareness poster; penalty for failure to display.**

9 (a) The Division of Highways shall display a public-awareness poster that contains the  
10 National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline information in every rest area and welcome  
11 center in the state which is open to the public.

12 (b) An employer shall display the public-awareness poster described in subsection (a) in a  
13 place that is clearly conspicuous and visible to employees and the public at each of the following  
14 locations in this state at which the employer has employees:

15 (1) A strip club or other sexually-oriented business;

16 (2) A business entity that has been found to be in violation of section five, article eight,  
17 chapter sixty-one of this code;

18 (3) A job-recruitment center;

19 (4) A hospital; or

20 (5) An emergency-care provider.

21 **§15-14-6. Eligibility for services.**

22 (a) A victim is eligible for benefits or services available through the state or identified in the

1 plan developed under subsection (d), section four of this article, including, but not limited to, the  
 2 advocacy and shelter services required by article twenty-six, chapter forty-eight of this code.

3 (b) A victim is eligible for compensation under the Crime Victim's Compensation Fund  
 4 established in article two-a, chapter fourteen of this code.

5 (c) A minor who has engaged in commercial sexual activity is eligible for benefits or services  
 6 available through the state and identified in the plan developed under subsection (d), section four of  
 7 this article , including, but not limited to, the children's protective services required by article six,  
 8 chapter forty-nine of this code.

9 (d) As soon as practicable after a first encounter with an individual who reasonably appears  
 10 to a law-enforcement officer to be a victim or minor who has engaged in commercial sexual activity,  
 11 the law enforcement officer shall notify the appropriate agencies identified in the co-ordinated and  
 12 comprehensive plan developed under subsection (d), section four of this article, that the individual  
 13 may be eligible for a benefit or service under this code. Nothing in this article is intended to prevent  
 14 individuals from reporting suspected commercial sexual activity of a victim or minor to law  
 15 enforcement, or any other appropriate agency or entity.

16 **CHAPTER 61. CRIMES AND THEIR PUNISHMENT.**

17 **ARTICLE 2. CRIMES AGAINST THE PERSON.**

18 **§61-2-17. Human trafficking; criminal penalties.**

19 (a) As used in this section:

20 (1) "Coercion" means:

21 (A) The use or threat of force against, abduction of, serious harm to, or physical restraint of,  
 22 an individual;

1 (B) The use of a plan, pattern, or statement with intent to cause an individual to believe that  
2 failure to perform an act will result in the use of force against, abduction of, serious harm to, or  
3 physical restraint of, an individual;

4 (C) The abuse or threatened abuse of law or legal process;

5 (D) Controlling or threatening to control an individual's access to a controlled substance as  
6 defined in article two, chapter sixty-a of this code;

7 (E) The destruction or taking of or the threatened destruction or taking of an individual's  
8 identification document or other property;

9 (F) The use of debt bondage;

10 (G) The use of an individual's physical or mental impairment when the impairment has a  
11 substantial adverse effect on the individual's cognitive or volitional function; or

12 (H) The commission of civil or criminal fraud.

13 (2) "Debt bondage" means inducing an individual to provide:

14 (A) Commercial sexual activity in payment toward or satisfaction of a real or purported debt;

15 or

16 (B) Labor or services in payment toward or satisfaction of a real or purported debt, if the  
17 status or condition of a debtor arising from a pledge by the debtor of the debtor's personal services,  
18 or those of a person under the debtor's control as a security for debt, if the value of those services as  
19 reasonably assessed is not applied toward the liquidation of the debt or the length and nature of those  
20 services are not respectively limited and defined.

21 (3) "Forced labor" means labor or services that are performed or provided by one person and  
22 are obtained or maintained through another person's:

1 (A) Threat, either implicit or explicit, deception or fraud, scheme, plan, or pattern, or other  
2 action intended to cause a person to believe that, if the person did not perform or provide the labor  
3 or services that person or another person would suffer serious bodily harm or physical restraint:  
4 *Provided*, That, this does not include work or services provided by a minor to the minor's parent or  
5 legal guardian so long as the legal guardianship or custody of the minor was not obtained for the  
6 purpose compelling the minor to participate in commercial sex acts or sexually explicit performance,  
7 or perform forced labor or services.

8 (B) Physically restraining or threatening to physically restrain a person;

9 (C) Abuse or threatened abuse of the legal process; or

10 (D) Knowingly destroying, concealing, removing, confiscating, or possessing any actual or  
11 purported passport or other immigration document, or any other actual or purported government  
12 identification document, of another person.

13 "Forced labor" does not mean labor or services required to be performed by a person in  
14 compliance with a court order or as a required condition of probation, parole, or imprisonment.

15 (4) "Human trafficking" means the commission of an offense created by subsection (b) of this  
16 section.

17 (5) "Identification document" means a passport, driver's license, immigration document, travel  
18 document or other government-issued identification document, including a document issued by a  
19 foreign government.

20 (6) "Labor or services" means activity having economic value.

21 (7) "Person" means an individual, estate, business or nonprofit entity, or other legal entity.

22 The term does not include a public corporation or government or governmental subdivision agency



1 or instrumentality.

2 (8) "Sexual activity" includes sexual contact, sexual intercourse, and sexual intrusion as  
3 defined by section one, article eight-b, chapter sixty-one of this code. The term also includes a  
4 sexually explicit performance.

5 (9) "Sexually explicit performance" means an act or show, whether public or private, live,  
6 or photographed, recorded, or videotaped, intended to appeal to an individual's prurient interest or  
7 to depict in a patently offensive way, sexual conduct, and to do so in a way that lacks artistic or  
8 scientific value.

9 (10) "Victim" means an individual who is subjected to human trafficking or to conduct that  
10 would have constituted human trafficking had this section been in effect when the conduct occurred,  
11 regardless of whether a perpetrator is identified, apprehended, prosecuted, or convicted.

12 (b) A person commits the offense of human trafficking if the person:

13 (1) Knowingly recruits, transports, transfers, harbors, receives, provides, obtains, isolates,  
14 maintains, or entices an individual in furtherance of forced labor or to coerce an individual to engage  
15 in commercial sexual activity.

16 (2) Knowingly uses coercion to compel an individual to provide labor or services, except  
17 when such conduct is permissible under federal law or state law.

18 (3) Knowingly maintains or makes available a minor for the purpose of engaging the minor  
19 in commercial sexual activity; or

20 (4) Uses coercion or deception to compel an adult to engage in commercial sexual activity.

21 (c) A business entity may be prosecuted for human trafficking under this section if:

22 (1) The entity knowingly engaged in conduct that constitutes human trafficking; or

1           (2) An employee or agent of the entity engaged in conduct that constitutes human trafficking  
2 and the commission of the offense was part of a pattern of illegal activity under this section for the  
3 benefit of the entity, which the entity knew was occurring and failed to take effective action to stop.

4           (d) Any person who knowingly and willfully engages in human trafficking is guilty of a  
5 felony and, upon conviction shall be incarcerated in a state correctional facility for an indeterminate  
6 sentence of not less than three nor more than fifteen years or fined not more than \$200,000, or both.

7 Any business entity that engages in human trafficking may be fined not more than \$500,000 for each  
8 offense, be required to disgorge profit from activity in violation of this section pursuant to section  
9 five, article thirteen of this chapter, and be debarred from state and local government contracts.

10           (e) A victim may bring a civil action against a person that commits an offense of human  
11 trafficking for compensatory damages, punitive damages, injunctive relief, and any other appropriate  
12 relief. The court may award compensatory damages, punitive damages, injunctive relief and any  
13 other appropriate relief. A prevailing victim is also entitled to attorney's fees and costs. Treble  
14 damages shall be awarded on proof of actual damages where defendant's acts were willful and  
15 malicious. An action under this section must be commenced not later than ten (10) years after the  
16 later date on which the victim was freed from the human trafficking situation, or attained 18 years  
17 of age. Damages awarded to the victim under this section must be offset by any other restitution paid  
18 to the victim. This section does not preclude any other remedy available to the victim under federal  
19 law or the law of this state other than the Uniform Act on Prevention of and Remedies for Human  
20 Trafficking.

21           (f) Notwithstanding the definition of victim in subsection (k), section three, article two-a,  
22 chapter fourteen of this code, a person who is a victim of human trafficking is a victim for all

1 purposes of article two-a, chapter fourteen of this code.

2 (g) This article and the rights and remedies provided in this article are cumulative and in  
3 addition to other existing rights.

4 **§61-2-17a. Immunity of a minor victim of sex trafficking.**

5 (a) The terms used in this section have the same meaning ascribed to them by subsection (a),  
6 section seventeen of this article.

7 (b) An individual is not criminally liable or subject to juvenile-delinquency proceedings for  
8 prostitution, in violation of subsection (b), section five, article eight of this chapter, if the individual  
9 was a minor at the time of the offense and committed the offense as a direct result of being a victim.

10 (c) A minor who under subsection (a) or (b) is not subject to criminal liability or a  
11 juvenile-delinquency proceeding is presumed to be a neglected or abused child, in need of services  
12 under section nine, article six, chapter forty-nine of this code.

13 (d) This section does not apply in a prosecution or a juvenile-delinquency proceeding for  
14 soliciting, inducing, enticing or procuring a prostitute in violation of subsection (b), section five,  
15 article eight of this chapter.

16 **§61-2-17b. Petition to vacate and expunge conviction of sex trafficking victim.**

17 (a) The terms used in this section have the same meaning ascribed to them by subsection (a),  
18 section seventeen of this article.

19 (b) Notwithstanding the age and criminal history limitations set forth in section twenty-six,  
20 article eleven of this chapter, an individual convicted of prostitution in violation of subsection (b),  
21 section five, article eight of this chapter as a direct result of being a victim of human trafficking may  
22 apply by petition to the circuit court in the county of conviction to vacate the conviction and expunge

1 the record of conviction. The court may grant the petition on a finding that the individual's  
2 participation in the offense was a direct result of being a victim of human trafficking.

3 (c) No victim of human trafficking seeking relief under this section shall be required to prove  
4 he or she has rehabilitated himself or herself in order to obtain expungement.

5 (d) A petition filed under subsection (b), any hearing conducted on the petition, and any relief  
6 granted shall meet the procedural requirements of section twenty-six, article eleven, chapter sixty-  
7 one of this code: *Provided*, That a victim of human trafficking is not subject to the age and criminal  
8 history limitations set forth in that section.

## 9 **CHAPTER 62. CRIMINAL PROCEDURE.**

### 10 **ARTICLE 1D. WIRETAPPING AND ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE ACT.**

#### 11 **§62-1D-8. County prosecuting attorney or duly appointed special prosecutor may apply for** 12 **order authorizing interception.**

13 The prosecuting attorney of any county or duly appointed special prosecutor may apply to  
14 one of the designated circuit judges referred to in section seven of this article and such judge, in  
15 accordance with the provisions of this article, may grant an order authorizing the interception of  
16 wire, oral or electronic communications by an officer of the investigative or law-enforcement agency  
17 when the prosecuting attorney or special prosecutor has shown reasonable cause to believe the  
18 interception would provide evidence of the commission of: (i) Kidnaping or abduction as defined  
19 and prohibited by the provisions of sections fourteen and fourteen-a, article two, chapter sixty-one  
20 of this code and including threats to kidnap or demand ransom as defined and prohibited by the  
21 provisions of section fourteen-c of said article two; or (ii) of any offense included and prohibited by  
22 section eleven, article four, chapter twenty-five of said code, sections eight, nine and ten, article five,

1 chapter sixty-one of said code or section one, article eight, chapter sixty-two of said code to the  
2 extent that any of said sections provide for offenses punishable as a felony; or (iii) dealing,  
3 transferring or trafficking in any controlled substance or substances in the felonious violation of  
4 chapter sixty-a of this code; or (iv) human trafficking as defined and prohibited by section seventeen,  
5 article two, chapter sixty-one of this code; or (v) any aider or abettor to any of the foregoing offenses  
6 or any conspiracy to commit any of the foregoing offenses if any aider, abettor or conspirator is a  
7 party to the communication to be intercepted.