

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS24846

Sex trafficking of minors is an issue of increasing concern at both the state and federal level. While there is no official estimate on the number of human trafficking victims in the United States, in 2015, an estimated one out of five endangered runaways reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children were likely child sex trafficking victims. The Idaho Child Protective Act does not currently include human trafficking in its definitions of abuse or neglect, potentially leaving victims vulnerable to further abuse.

The Justice for Victims of Sex Trafficking Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-22) amends the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) state grant program requirements and specifically requires states to consider any child who is identified by a state as a victim of sex trafficking or severe forms of trafficking (as defined in P.L. 114-22) as a victim of "child abuse and neglect" and "sexual abuse." The proposed legislation will increase the state's ability to protect minor victims of sex trafficking by including human trafficking as defined in Section 18-8602, Idaho Code, in the definitions of abuse and sexual conduct in the Child Protective Act (Section 16-1602, Idaho Code). The proposed legislation will also bring Idaho into compliance with P.L. 114—22.

FISCAL NOTE

These changes are required in order for the state to have an approved CAPTA plan. If the state does not meet these requirements then it is at risk of losing its CAPTA funding (approximately \$180,000 each FFY). The state must also have an approved CAPTA plan in order to receive Children's Justice Act (CJA) funds. These funds are the primary source of support for the Governor's Task Force on Children at Risk. The state receives approximately \$130,000 of CJA funds each FFY.

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DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).