



Site | Yellow Pages | Calendar | Archives | Web Search

[NEWS](#) [SPORTS](#) [SPURS](#) [BUSINESS](#) [LIFE](#) [A&E](#) [OBITS](#) [FORUMS](#) [BLOGS](#) [WEATHER](#)
[COLUMNISTS](#) | [OPINION](#) | [WEATHER](#) | [TRAFFIC](#) | [EDUCATION](#) | [POLITICS](#) | [RELIGION](#) | [STORIES](#) |

Senate OKs bill to combat human trafficking Web Posted: 04/28/2009 12:00 CDT

READ

comments (0)

By **Janet Elliott** - Express-News

[RSS](#) | [EMAIL](#) | [PRINT](#) | [SAVE](#)

AUSTIN — Police would be better trained to recognize victims of human trafficking and those victims could receive better services under a bill passed Monday by the Texas Senate.

The bill, which now goes to the House, would direct the state attorney general's office to establish a task force to develop policies to assist in prevention and prosecution of human trafficking crimes.

Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, D-San Antonio, author of the bill, said women and children are the usual victims of this “modern-day slavery.”

“Every day, thousands of defenseless children and vulnerable adults are trafficked through Texas and forced into jobs as laborers or as prostitutes,” she said.

Sen. Dan Patrick, R-Houston, attempted to toughen the bill by allowing an expedited process to suspend a bar's liquor license if criminal activity is found. Patrick said some bars have been used as a front for prostitution by human traffickers.

He withdrew his amendment after Sen. Juan Hinojosa, D-McAllen, raised concerns about the impact on business owners who might be unaware of illegal activity on their premises.

However, a similar bill by Patrick is scheduled for a hearing today before the Senate Business and Commerce Committee.

Many of the provisions in the Senate-passed bill were recommended in a report by Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott, which found that many communities don't have adequate social services for victims. To help with those costs, a fund would be administered by the governor's criminal justice division.

The task force would develop training for law enforcement personnel, victim service providers and medical staff to help them identify victims. The Texas Juvenile Probation Commission would evaluate alternatives rather than incarceration for youths who are accused of engaging in prostitution.



More stories

San Antonio's first probable swine flu case investigated

SCUC still working to schedule TAKS tests

Humana building reopens after swine flu scare

Swine flu alters UIL academic, music schedules

Gov. Perry declares disaster over swine flu

UIL postponing all competition till May 11

CDC: Texas swine flu death first in U.S.

Slaying suspect who joined Marines back in S.A.

BREAKING: CDC: Swine flu claims 1st victim in U.S.

Heavy rains flood parts of Texas

Save and share



Yahoo! Buzz

Comments

[Login](#) | [Sign Up](#)

0 comment(s) on "Senate OKs bill to combat human trafficking"

Soundproof Your Windows

Free Estimates 7 Days/Week. Best Prices and Warranty in Houston.

(SunAndSoundWindows.com)

Houston 24 Hour Locksmith

With great customer service and professional workmanship, we are ready to assist you 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Automotive - residential - commercial - industrial.

(www.24hrlocksmith.com)

auto insurance houston tx

We offer Huge Discounts on Houston Auto Insurance.

(www.OnlineAuto-Insurancequote.com)

Don't Pay For Diets

Cut down 25 lbs of stomach fat in 1 month by obeying this 1 rule.

(Karens-Weight-Loss.com)

[Ads by Yahoo](#)

mySA

[News](#)

[Blogs](#)

[Business](#)

[Columnists](#)

[Corrections](#)

[Data Central](#)

[Forums](#)

[Life](#)

[Multimedia](#)

[National | International](#)

[News Wires](#)

[Obituaries](#)

[Politics](#)

[Video](#)

[Weather](#)

Topics

[Community](#)

[Health](#)

[Hunting & Fishing](#)

[SA Game Time](#)

[SA Cultura](#)

[Do Good](#)

Marketplace

[Autos](#)

[Classifieds](#)

[Fan Shop](#)

Community Submitted

[Calendar](#)

[Photos](#)

[Stories](#)

[Editorials](#)
[Education](#)
[Entertainment](#)
[Events Calendar](#)

[Rodeo](#)
[Sports](#)
[Travel](#)
[Traffic](#)

[Living Green SA](#)
[Military](#)
[MomsInSA](#)
[Visitors' Guide](#)
[SA Paws](#)

[Jobs](#)
[Real Estate](#)
[Shopping](#)
[Yellow Pages](#)
[It's Your Money - Save It](#)

[Video](#)

[About Us](#)

[About mySA](#)
[Contact Us](#)
[FAQs](#)
[Advertise online](#)

Portions © 2009 San Antonio Express-News. All rights reserved. [Feedback](#) | [RSS Feeds](#) | [Privacy](#)

San Antonio Express-News

HEARST *newspapers*