

# 2022 General Assembly Session Summary of Bills Supported by the Virginia Coalition Against Human Trafficking (VCAHT)



**HB 1334** Amends the definition of “abused or neglected child” to include a child who is being sexually exploited or abused by an intimate partner of the child’s parent or caretaker. Additionally, allows a complaint of child abuse or neglect to stand regardless of the identification of the abuser.

**HB 258** Amends the Virginia Code § 9.1-102 and directs the Department of Criminal Justice (DCJS) to develop a curriculum to train hotel proprietors and their employees on recognizing and reporting instances of human trafficking.

**HB 526** Provides that a non-Virginia student who is present in the Commonwealth as a result of being a victim of human trafficking is eligible for in-state tuition regardless of whether any person has been charged with or convicted of any offense.

**HB 1023** Allows any family life education curriculum offered by a local school division before high school to incorporate age-appropriate programs on the prevention, recognition, and awareness of human trafficking of children.

**HB 283/SB 467** Requires mandatory and minimum training standards be established for law enforcement officers with regard to trainings for the recognition, prevention, and reporting of human trafficking. Unfortunately, while these policies increase the likelihood of officers using their training to appropriately handle trafficking cases and properly communicate with survivors, they do not require the training to be mandatory and accordingly, still falls short of what is needed to make sure that all law enforcement have been trained to handle human trafficking matters with victims in a trauma-informed victim-centered manner.

## DID NOT PASS THIS SESSION

**HB 412** Requires law enforcement training standard to be trauma-informed, protecting victims from criminalization and providing support services instead.

**HB 413/SB 664** Prohibits minors from being arrested, charged, and prosecuted for prostitution-related offenses and instead, referred to the local Department of Social Services (DSS) for an assessment and services.

**HB 1213** Prohibits the criminalization of minors for offenses they’re forced to commit because of their victimization.

**HB 1115** Amends the Virginia Code to require the Department of Juvenile Justice to use trauma-informed screening measures to identify whether any child committed to the Department has been a victim of human trafficking and determine appropriate treatment and service options.

**HB 579** Allows a trafficking survivor to petition for the vacatur and expungement of their convictions for crimes they were forced to commit as a result of their victimization, including relief for misdemeanors and nonviolent felonies which survivors are frequently forced to commit as part of their victimization.