



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

**STATE SENATOR  
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**MOORE CO-SPONSORS ATTORNEY GENERAL'S LEGISLATION TO CRACK DOWN ON  
HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

**Boston** – Senator Michael O. Moore (D-Millbury) has joined with Massachusetts Attorney General Martha Coakley in filing of *An Act Relative to the Commercial Exploitation of People*, comprehensive legislation that would - for the first time - establish human trafficking for sexual servitude or labor as a crime in Massachusetts. Massachusetts is currently one of only five states in the country without human trafficking laws. The bill gives law enforcement the necessary tools to investigate and prosecute the crimes and attempts to address all three aspects of human trafficking – supply, demand, and victim services. The bill is supported by a coalition of Legislators, District Attorneys, law enforcement, and victim advocates.

“This bill is an essential step both in addressing a major, deadly criminal enterprise, and in bringing Massachusetts law up to speed with the rest of the nation’s,” said Sen. Moore. “It is my hope that this law will protect people from forced sexual servitude, and provide law enforcement with the necessary tools to crack down on those who would create and exploit victims of this heinous crime.”

Human trafficking is considered the second largest and single fastest growing illegal industry in the world. Experts estimate that 27 million people are trafficked internationally and domestically, bringing in \$32 billion annually.

The bill does three main things: creates two new crimes; creates an inter-agency task force; and amends penalties regarding existing statutes to address the demand side of human trafficking.

Specifically, *An Act Relative to the Commercial Exploitation of People* does the following:

- Creates the crime of trafficking of persons for sexual servitude, which has a penalty of no more than 20 years in state prison;
- Creates the crime of trafficking of persons for forced labor, which has a penalty of no more than 15 years in state prison;
- Imposes higher penalties for those who exploit child victims under 18 years of age versus adult victims for both crimes (life or any term of years)
- Imposes a minimum mandatory sentence of 10 years in prison for any second or subsequent offense of either crime;

- Allows forfeiture of funds and enables funds to be paid to victims in any restitution order from the court;
- Creates an inter-agency task force to study human trafficking that is led by the Attorney General; and
- Increases penalties for current “John” crimes to address the demand side of human trafficking.

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