

Date of Hearing: March 30, 2022

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Chris Holden, Chair

AB 1661 (Davies) – As Amended March 3, 2022

Policy Committee: Judiciary

Vote: 10 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill requires a barbering and cosmetology business to post information about the elimination of human trafficking.

FISCAL EFFECT:

Likely minor costs to the State Board of Barbering and Cosmetology within the Department of Consumer Affairs to the extent it is required to ensure licensees post the required notice.

COMMENTS:

1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

Too often victims are forgotten or never found. Part of the problem these victims go unfound is because the public has no idea how to spot individuals in their time of need. AB 1661 is a step in the right direction by updating our current notification laws to expand what types of businesses must display warning sign posters on their premises.

2) **Human Trafficking Notice.** In 2012, the Legislature enacted Civil Code section 52.6 which requires a variety of different businesses to post information about human trafficking and required the Department of Justice (DOJ) to develop the specific language in the notice and make it available on its website. Currently, State Board of Barbering and Cosmetology provides educational materials to licensees. These materials explain that barbers and cosmetologists are uniquely positioned to recognize signs of abuse due to the “intimate nature of many services provided and the close personal bonds that are often formed between a licensee and a client.” 25 states including California, have laws requiring establishments to post a trafficking notice containing the number of National Human Trafficking Hotline. By expanding this requirement to all businesses and establishments regulated by the Barbering and Cosmetology Act, this bill applies to establishments licensed under the California Board of Barbering and Cosmetology, which amounts to over 50,000 establishments.

3) **Related Legislation.** AB 1820 (Arambula) establishes the Labor Trafficking Unit within Cal-OSHA to receive, investigate, and prosecute complaints alleging labor trafficking, as

well as take steps to prevent labor trafficking. AB 1820 is pending in the Labor and Employment Committee.

- 4) **Prior Legislation.** AB 2318 (Boerner Horvath) would have added short-term rentals advertised via a centralized online platform to post a notice with information about human trafficking. AB 2318 was referred to but never heard in the Assembly Judiciary Committee.

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