

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 1239 (Dixon)

As Amended July 7, 2025

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Requires the Department of Justice (DOJ) to include in the information made available on the OpenJustice Web portal information concerning arrests for human trafficking and the number of individuals reported as a victim of human trafficking, as specified, through the California Incident-Based Reporting System.

Senate Amendments

- 1) Eliminates the definition of "victim," as defined by a provision of the Evidence Code related to the human trafficking caseworker privilege.
- 2) States a victim of human trafficking, as defined in the Penal Code, means a person reported as a victim of human trafficking in the California Incident-Based Reporting System.

COMMENTS*EXISTING LAW:*

States any person who deprives or violates the personal liberty of another with the intent to obtain forced labor or services, is guilty of human trafficking and shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for five, eight, or 12 years and a fine of not more \$500,000. (Pen. Code, Section 236.1, subd. (a).)

According to the Author

"Human trafficking has no place here or anywhere in our State. The state must take very step to help victims and their families overcome the devastation of human trafficking and partnering with organizations to raise awareness and bring an end to the inhumanity. Even one victim of human trafficking is one too many.

"Despite the positive steps taken by the legislature to tackle human trafficking and provide services to victims of human trafficking, there is currently a significant lack of data on human trafficking within California. The most recent DOJ report on human trafficking was released in 2012. Furthermore, the most recent DOJ Criminal Statistics Reporting Requirements report does not include any reporting requirements for human trafficking or the victims, and the annual Crime in California report by the DOJ has no information on human trafficking.

"To address these issues, and to align the reporting of human trafficking with other crimes, AB 1239 would require that data on arrests for human trafficking and the number of individuals who have been a victim of human trafficking be made available on the DOJ's OpenJustice Web portal."

Arguments in Support

According to *3Strands Global Foundation*: AB 1239 takes an urgently needed step in strengthening California's response to human trafficking by requiring the Department of Justice to publicly report data on arrests related to human trafficking and the number of identified victims through its OpenJustice Web portal. As a direct service provider, we see firsthand how

survivors of trafficking are too often rendered invisible due to fragmented data systems and insufficient public reporting. This lack of transparency undermines our collective ability to allocate resources, evaluate impact, and design policies that meet the real needs of survivors across diverse regions and communities.

"Accurate, publicly accessible data is not only critical to strengthening the state's response—it is also essential for empowering local organizations like ours to strategically expand reintegration support and develop targeted prevention programming. When we understand where trafficking is happening, who it is affecting, and how interventions are progressing, we are better equipped to break the cycles of exploitation.

"We commend [the author's] leadership in introducing AB 1239 and for recognizing that the absence of data is itself a barrier to justice. By aligning human trafficking reporting with standards already in place for crimes such as domestic violence, hate crimes, and homicides, this bill affirms the seriousness of trafficking as a statewide issue and supports survivor-centered policy development.

Arguments in Opposition

None on file.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- 1) The Department of Justice (DOJ) reports a fiscal impact of \$200,000 or less (General Fund). The department notes that implementation of this bill will be dependent upon the appropriation of funds. The DOJ will be unable to absorb the costs to comply with or implement the requirements of the bill within existing budgeted resources. AB 1239, if passed, would require DOJ to include information concerning human trafficking to be made available on the OpenJustice Web portal. DOJ would be responsible for reviewing all files sent from local law enforcement for metadata removal for publication on the portal. To address the increase in workload, the Information Security Branch within DOJ's Office of General Counsel would require one additional Information Technology Specialist I beginning on January 1, 2026 and ongoing. This bill will have an impact on the General Fund.
- 2) Costs to law enforcement agencies (local funds, General Fund) to collect and report to DOJ information about arrests for human trafficking. Costs for each agency may not be significant for individual agencies, but will likely be significant in the aggregate. Law enforcement agencies may also incur one-time costs to update data collection systems and practices to facilitate collection and reporting of the required data. The state must reimburse these local agencies costs from the General Fund if the Commission on State Mandates determines the duties imposed by this bill constitute a reimbursable state mandate.

VOTES:

ASM PUBLIC SAFETY: 9-0-0

YES: Schultz, Alanis, Mark González, Bonta, Harabedian, Lackey, Nguyen, Ramos, Sharp-Collins

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 14-0-1

YES: Wicks, Arambula, Calderon, Caloza, Dixon, Elhawary, Fong, Mark González, Hart, Pacheco, Pellerin, Solache, Ta, Tangipa

ABS, ABST OR NV: Sanchez

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 78-0-1

YES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Celeste Rodriguez, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

ABS, ABST OR NV: Lee

SENATE FLOOR: 39-0-1

YES: Allen, Alvarado-Gil, Archuleta, Arreguín, Ashby, Becker, Blakespear, Cabaldon, Caballero, Cervantes, Choi, Cortese, Dahle, Durazo, Gonzalez, Grayson, Grove, Hurtado, Jones, Laird, Limón, McGuire, McNerney, Menjivar, Niello, Ochoa Bogh, Padilla, Pérez, Richardson, Rubio, Seyarto, Smallwood-Cuevas, Stern, Strickland, Umberg, Valladares, Wahab, Weber Pierson, Wiener

ABS, ABST OR NV: Reyes

UPDATED

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