

CONCURRENCE IN SENATE AMENDMENTS

AB 1375 (Hoover)

As Amended July 17, 2025

Majority vote

SUMMARY

Requires family court judges to consider allegations that a parent has caused human trafficking of the child or other parent when specific evidence is presented.

Major Provisions

Requires a court, when making a determination of the best interests of a child, to consider any relevant, admissible evidence that a parent has caused human trafficking of the child or other parent.

Senate Amendments

Delete types of evidence that the bill required the court to consider when making relevant determinations.

COMMENTS

California family courts are tasked with adjudicating some of the most sensitive and contentious disputes that pass through the justice system. On occasion, someone who has been or is a victim of human trafficking may pass through the family court system caught in a dispute over custody of a child that was born as a result of that trafficking.

In matters where a court is tasked with making a determination in the best interest of a child, including issuing child custody orders, *this bill* requires judges to consider any relevant, admissible evidence that a parent has caused human trafficking of either the parent or the other parent.

According to the Author

California consistently falls short in the protection of victims of crime and victims of human trafficking are no different. Oftentimes, traffickers turn to family courts to further abuse and coerce their victims, sometimes years after their escape. California has protections in place for victims of domestic violence, but there are no provisions regarding human trafficking in child custody cases. AB 1375 would require courts to consider human trafficking when determining these child custody cases, providing protections for victims and allowing them to move forward in healing.

Arguments in Support

This bill is sponsored by 3Strands Global Foundation. It is further supported by Love Never Fails. In support of the bill the sponsors submit:

This bill ensures that family courts in California consider whether a child or parent has been a victim of human trafficking or whether a parent has been convicted of trafficking or has caused trafficking-related harm when making custody determinations.

As an organization dedicated to fighting human trafficking and supporting survivors, we recognize that traffickers often use children as a means of control, intimidation, and coercion. Many survivors of trafficking, particularly women and mothers, face ongoing legal battles where their traffickers seek custody of their children as a way to further exert power over them. Without clear legal protections, family courts may fail to recognize the trauma and danger that trafficking survivors and their children face when forced to share custody with an abusive parent.

AB 1375 ensures that before granting custody, courts must independently determine whether a child or parent is a victim of trafficking and must provide necessary protections within any custody order if trafficking has occurred. Additionally, if a parent has been convicted of trafficking or has caused the child or the other parent to be trafficked, the bill establishes a rebuttable presumption that awarding them custody is detrimental to the child's best interest. This presumption can only be overturned by clear evidence proving otherwise, ensuring that children are not placed in harmful environments.

By passing AB 1375, California would take an essential step in preventing further victimization of trafficking survivors and their children within the family court system. This legislation prioritizes the safety and well-being of vulnerable individuals and ensures that courts have a clear framework for addressing trafficking in custody cases.

Arguments in Opposition

None on file.

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee, pursuant to Senate Rule 28.8, negligible state costs.

VOTES:

ASM JUDICIARY: 11-0-1

YES: Kalra, Dixon, Bryan, Connolly, Harabedian, Macedo, Pacheco, Papan, Sanchez, Stefani, Zbur

ABS, ABST OR NV: Bauer-Kahan

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 11-0-4

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

ABS, ABST OR NV: Sanchez, Dixon, Ta, Tangipa

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 79-0-0

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, Lee, 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

SENATE FLOOR: 37-0-3

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

UPDATED

VERSION: July 17, 2025

CONSULTANT: Manuela Boucher / JUD. / (916) 319-2334

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