

Date of Hearing: April 8, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 1541 (Dixon) – As Amended February 9, 2026

Policy Committee: Public Safety Vote: 9 - 0

Urgency: No State Mandated Local Program: Yes Reimbursable: Yes

SUMMARY:

This bill expands the information the Department of Justice (DOJ) must publish on its OpenJustice Web portal to include the number of individuals arrested for human trafficking, the number of arrests and convictions for human trafficking, as well as the number of victims of human trafficking.

FISCAL EFFECT:

- 1) Costs (General Fund) to DOJ of an unknown but likely insignificant amount. The DOJ notes that AB 1541, by itself, would not pose a significant fiscal impact to the DOJ. However, the DOJ cautions that if several such “no fiscal impact” bills become law, the cumulative fiscal effect on the DOJ may be significant; as a result, the DOJ would request additional resources to accommodate the additional workload.
- 2) Costs to law enforcement agencies (LEAs) 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. The state must reimburse these LEA costs from the General Fund if the Commission on State Mandates determines the duties imposed by this bill constitute a reimbursable state mandate.

The Legislative Analyst’s Office recently warned of General Fund structural deficits of around \$35 billion per year in the 2027-28 fiscal year and ongoing.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Author’s statement.** According to the author,

Human trafficking is a heinous form of modern-day slavery and has no place in the great state of California. It is the Legislature’s responsibility to do everything it can in order to assist victims and families impacted by trafficking, because even one victim is too many. While we have made significant progress in raising awareness and punishing perpetrators, there is still work to do.

- 2) **Background.** According to the DOJ website on human trafficking, California is one of the largest sites of human trafficking in the United States. In 2018, 1,656 cases of human trafficking were reported in California. Of those cases, 1,226 were sex trafficking cases, 151

were labor trafficking cases, 110 involved both labor and sex trafficking, and in 169 cases the type of trafficking was not specified.

Existing law requires DOJ to maintain and annually update its OpenJustice online portal. OpenJustice is a website on which DOJ publishes California criminal justice data and DOJ's annual reports that analyze the data. On OpenJustice, DOJ publishes information about arrests and arrest disposition (the outcome of an arrest), including the number of arrests for misdemeanors generally, and the number of arrests for certain felonies, including homicide, kidnapping, burglary, and certain drug offenses, among others.

As of January 1, 2026, that mandate includes publishing information concerning arrests for human trafficking and the number of individuals who have been a victim of human trafficking. Arrest information is reported to DOJ by the LEAs that make the arrests. Counts of reported victims of human trafficking and arrests for human trafficking are received by the DOJ as part of the California Incident-Based Reporting System (CIBRS) reporting. The DOJ will post the counts to OpenJustice as part of their annual crime report and data release this July.

Over the past few years, the state has been transitioning from the FBI's Uniform Crime Report (UCR) Summary format to the new National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) format. In California, the system of record for NIBRS data is CIBRS. At this time, law enforcement agencies covering 83% of California's population have transitioned to the new system.

- 3) **Prior Legislation.** AB 1239 (Dixon), Chapter 393, Statutes of 2025, required the DOJ to report information concerning arrests for human trafficking and the number of individuals reported as victims of human trafficking on the OpenJustice Web portal.

AB 2524 (Irwin), Chapter 418, Statutes of 2016, required the DOJ to make available to the public its mandatory criminal justice statistics reports through the OpenJustice Web Portal, to be updated at least yearly, and made conforming changes to existing provisions related to criminal statistics.

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