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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Sasha Renée Pérez, Chair

2025 - 2026 Regular

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<b>Bill No:</b>	AB 1845	<b>Hearing Date:</b>	June 17, 2026
<b>Author:</b>	Krell		
<b>Version:</b>	April 9, 2026		
<b>Urgency:</b>	No	<b>Fiscal:</b>	Yes
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**Subject:** Student safety: human trafficking.

**NOTE:** This bill has been referred to the Committees on Education and *Judiciary*. A “do pass” motion should include referral to the Committee on *Judiciary*.

### SUMMARY

This bill establishes specific policies and procedures that postsecondary educational institutions must adopt to address incidents of human trafficking on campus, including providing training for employees of postsecondary educational institutions about human trafficking prevention and ensuring that all incidents of human trafficking are recorded and reported to law enforcement.

### BACKGROUND

Existing federal law:

- 1) Requires each eligible institution receiving federal financial assistance, as defined, to collect information with respect to campus crime statistics and campus security policies of that institution, including statistics concerning the occurrence on campus of the following criminal offenses reported to campus security authorities or local police agencies: murder, sex offenses, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, motor vehicle theft, manslaughter, arson, and arrests or persons referred for campus disciplinary action for liquor law violations, drug-related violations, or weapons possession. This also includes crimes in which the victim is intentionally selected due to specified characteristics, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking incidents, and hazing incidents. (United States Code (USC) Title 20, Chapter 28, Subchapter IV, Part G, § 1092)
- 2) Establishes Title IX, providing that, in part, “no person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.” (USC Title 20, Chapter 38, § 1681 (commonly known as Title IX))
- 3) Outlines the required response, pursuant to Title IX, of a postsecondary higher education institution when the institution is made aware of an alleged sexual harassment incident on campus, which include a requirement for a formal complaint, a grievance procedure for an investigation into whether the incident based on a standard of evidence occurred, a hearing by which advisors are

provided an opportunity to cross-examine, and a method of appealing the outcome of the grievance process. (Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 34, Subtitle B, Chapter 1, Part 106, Subpart D, § 106.45)

- 4) Defines sexual harassment as a form of sex discrimination and as conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies at least one of the following:
  - a) *Quid pro quo harassment*. An employee of the postsecondary education institution conditions aid, benefit, or services to a postsecondary education institution's education program or activity on the individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct.
  - b) *Hostile environment harassment*. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the recipient's education program or activity.
  - c) *Specific offenses*. Sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking, as defined in the USC. (CFR, Title 34, Subtitle B, Chapter 1, Part 106, Subpart A, § 106.2)

Existing state law:

- 1) Requires that each postsecondary educational institution, as specified, receiving public funds for student financial assistance do all the following:
  - a) Require the appropriate officials at each campus to compile records of both of the following:
    - i) All occurrences reported to campus police and security, and arrests for, crimes that are committed on campus that involve violence, hate violence, theft, destruction of property, illegal drugs, or alcohol intoxication.
    - ii) All occurrences of noncriminal acts of hate violence, as defined.
  - b) Require any written record of noncriminal hate violence to include, but not be limited to, a description of the hate violence, the victim's characteristics, and the offender's characteristics, if known.
  - c) Make information concerning crimes reported pursuant to #1a to be made available within two days following the request from any student or employee of a campus, or the media, unless the information is exempt. The disclosure shall be done in a manner that does not disclose the identity of the victim without the permission of the victim.
  - d) Require the appropriate officials at each campus to prepare and make available a campus safety plan.

- e) Requires the appropriate officials at each campus to report information relating to hate violence on campus; which will be made available to the appropriate governing board and the public.
  - f) Requires any report made regarding a Part 1 violent crime, sexual assault, or hate crime received by campus security authorities to be immediately reported to appropriate local law enforcement agency for investigation. The reporting will be done in a manner that withholds the victim's identity unless the victim has consented to being identified.
  - g) Prohibits this code section from applying to institutions with less than 1,000 students or to the California Community Colleges (CCCs) unless the Legislature has made funds available for the intended purpose. (Education Code (EC) § 67380)
- 2) Requires the Trustees of the California State University (CSU), the Regents of the University of California (UC), and the governing boards of independent postsecondary institutions to adopt rules requiring their respective campuses to enter into written agreements with local law enforcement agencies to clarify the operational responsibilities for investigations of Part 1 violent crimes, sexual assaults, and hate crimes. This section is known as the Kristin Smart Campus Safety Act of 1998. (EC § 67381)
- 3) Requires the governing board of each community college district (CCD) to adopt rules requiring CCC campuses to enter into written agreements with local law enforcement agencies that clarify operational responsibilities for investigations of Part 1 violent crimes occurring on campus. Stipulates that once a governing board of a CCD adopts these specified rules requiring its campuses to update an agreement, the governing board of a CCD will be subject to the requirements of #2 instead of this section. (EC § 67381.1)
- 4) Requires a postsecondary educational institution—as defined, as a condition for participation in the Cal Grant Program, and by July 1, 2015—to adopt and implement written policies, and procedures to ensure that any report of a Part 1 violent crime, sexual assault, or hate crime received by campus authorities, that is made for the purpose of notifying the institution or law enforcement, is immediately, or as soon as practically possible, forwarded to the appropriate law enforcement agency. Maintains requirements for a victim's identity to be withheld unless the victim consents to disclosure. (EC § 67383)
- 5) States that a person who deprives or violates the personal liberty of another with the intent to obtain forced labor or services, or with the intent to effect or maintain a violation of specified sections of the Penal Code, including taking away a minor from their parent or guardian without their consent for the purpose of prostitution, is guilty of human trafficking. (Penal Code PC § 236.1)
- 6) States that a person who causes, induces, or persuades, or attempts to cause, induce, or persuade, a person who is a minor at the time of commission of the offense to engage in a commercial sex act, with the intent to effect or maintain a

violation of specified sections of the Penal Code, is guilty of human trafficking.  
(Penal Code PC § 236.1)

## ANALYSIS

This bill:

- 1) Requires a postsecondary institution, by July 1, 2027, to include as part of the training it provides for employees:
  - a) The definition of human trafficking, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking.
  - b) Myths and misconceptions about human trafficking.
  - c) Physical and mental signs to be aware of that may indicate that human trafficking is occurring.
  - d) Guidance on how to identify individuals who are most at risk for human trafficking.
  - e) Protocols for how to report human trafficking to campus and non-campus authorities.
- 2) Requires a postsecondary institution, by July 1, 2027, to ensure each employee annually completed the specified training.
- 3) Clarifies that a postsecondary institution is not required to provide separate training for identification of human trafficking and may include the specified training in an existing employee training required by the institution.
- 4) Specifies that an employee of a postsecondary institution failing to report human trafficking to a postsecondary institution or to local law enforcement agencies does not, by itself, result in the liability of a postsecondary institution.
- 5) Requires a postsecondary institution to post and display the specified model notice on the institution's website and in a prominent location on campus.
- 6) Requires every postsecondary institution who receives student financial aid assistance from the state to do both of the following:
  - a) Requires the appropriate officials at each postsecondary institution receiving student financial assistance to compile records on all occurrences reported to campus police, and arrests for, crimes that are committed on campus and that involve human trafficking, in addition to other crimes for which officials are already statutorily required to compile records.
  - b) Require any report made by a victim or employee of a postsecondary institution of human trafficking—in addition to other crimes already specified in statute—received by campus authorities and made by the victim for purposes of notifying the institution or law enforcement, to be immediately,

or as soon as practicably possible, disclosed to the local law enforcement agency with which the institution has a specified written agreement without identifying the victim, unless the victim consents to being identified after the victim has been informed their right to have their personally identifying information withheld.

- 7) Removes language excluding the California Community Colleges (CCCs) from disclosing and reporting specific crimes that occur on campus to the authorities and the public unless the Legislature makes funds available to the CCCs for this purpose.
- 8) Amends the Kristin Smart Campus Safety Act of 1998 to include human trafficking requirements and to include the community colleges as required postsecondary educational institutions. Specifically, requires the governing board or body of postsecondary educational institutions to adopt rules requiring each campus to enter into written agreements with local law enforcement for the operational clarity regarding the responsibilities of investigating of human trafficking on campus, in addition to other crimes. Clarifies the written agreements will designate which law enforcement agency will have operational responsibility for investigating each human trafficking incident, in addition to other crimes.
- 9) Repeals Education Code Section 67381.1 as it is no longer operationally necessary.
- 10) Requires each postsecondary institution, as a condition to receive state funds for student financial assistance, to adopt a policy concerning incidents of human trafficking that involve students, faculty, or staff. Requires the policy include all of the following:
  - a) A statement that human trafficking is a state and federal crime.
  - b) A statement that human trafficking is a violation of the student and employee code of conduct.
  - c) The physical and mental signs to be aware of that may indicate that human trafficking is occurring.
  - d) Guidance on how to identify individuals who are most at risk for human trafficking.
  - e) The protocols for how to report an incident of human trafficking to local law enforcement, the appropriate campus authorities, and the contact information for national hotlines for reports of human trafficking.
- 11) Requires each postsecondary institution, as a condition for participation in the Cal Grant Program, adopt and implement written policies and procedures to ensure that any report of human trafficking—in addition to other crimes already specified in statute—received by campus authorities and made by the victim for purposes of notifying the institution or law enforcement, is immediately, or as soon as practicably possible, forwarded to the appropriate law enforcement agency, by July 1, 2027, instead of July 1, 2015.

- 12) Defines for purpose of the entire measure “human trafficking” as a violation of section 236.1 of the Penal Code.
- 13) Makes conforming and technical amendments to provisions of the Education Code.

## STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) ***Need for the bill.*** According to the author, “In 1972, Title IX was federally enacted to prohibit sex-based discrimination, like sexual harassment or sexual violence, in any education program receiving federal funds. While human trafficking and sexual exploitation through online platforms, social networks, recruitment or coercive relationship constitute severe forms of gender-based violations under Title IX, existing law does not require the inclusion of human trafficking in campus training and protocols.”

Moreover, the author states, “Victims of human trafficking can be of any age, sex, race, ethnicity, immigration status or socioeconomic class. College students can be vulnerable to environmental risk factors such as housing instability, lack of social or familial support, or naivety to exploitive situations. Traffickers may recruit students on campus, at off campus parties, online or at local bars. A study conducted among college students on 12 Southern California campuses found that 42% of students reported having known someone who sold sex or was trafficked as a college student. ... California colleges are in a unique position to reach students who may be vulnerable to exploitation and sex trafficking due to environmental risk factors such as housing instability, lack of social or familial support, or naivety to exploitive situations. AB 1845 ensures that sexual harassment policies are updated to include human trafficking identification and prevention. Expanding existing strategies to prevent human trafficking recruitment is vital to protecting the safety of college students.”

- 2) ***Expanding the definition of human trafficking in the Education Code by including both sex trafficking and labor trafficking.*** Human trafficking is not explicitly defined as one of the sexual assault crimes included within the jurisdiction of Title IX. However, the Education Code provides that “sexual exploitation” means a person taking sexual advantage of another person for the benefit of anyone other than that person without that person’s consent, which may include “the trafficking of another person, defined in the inducement of a person to perform a commercial sex act, or labor or services, through force, fraud, or coercion”, among other acts. This definition is specific to sex trafficking, but this bill broadens the definition of human trafficking by using a definition in the Penal Code that is inclusive of both sex trafficking and labor trafficking.
- 3) ***This bill establishes specific policies and procedures for postsecondary educational institutions to address incidents of human trafficking on campus.*** This bill expands the definition of human trafficking and clarifies processes for how colleges and universities should address human trafficking, and requires postsecondary educational institutions of the following, as a condition of receiving state financial assistance:

- Ensuring that employees complete annual training on human trafficking prevention and how to report human trafficking.
  - Posting and displaying a model notice on human trafficking on the institution's website and in a prominent location on campus.
  - Compiling records of all occurrences of human trafficking reported to campus authorities, and report this information to the local law enforcement agency as well as the governing board or body of the institution.
  - Entering into written agreements with law enforcement agencies that clarify operational responsibilities for investigations of human trafficking.
  - Adopting a policy concerning incidents of human trafficking that involve students, faculty, or staff, including a statement that human trafficking is a state and federal crime and a violation of the student and employee code of conduct.
- 4) ***Author's amendments to be taken as committee amendments.*** To make a distinction between defining human trafficking for purposes of reporting a crime and how a postsecondary educational institution should define human trafficking for educational and employment purposes, *the author suggests amending the bill, and committee staff concurs, to:*
- *Replace a statement that human trafficking is a violation of the student and employee code of conduct, with a statement that a conviction of human trafficking by a criminal court is a violation of the student and employee code of conduct.*

5) ***Related and Prior Legislation.***

SB 493 (Jackson, Chapter 303, Statutes of 2020) requires postsecondary institutions to adopt rules and procedures for the prevention of sexual harassment, and adopt and post on their websites the grievance procedures to resolve complaints of sexual harassment.

## **SUPPORT**

American Association of University Women of California (co-sponsor)  
Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis  
California Survivor Coalition (co-sponsor)  
Student Senate for California Community Colleges

## **OPPOSITION**

None received

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