
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1845 (Krell) - Student safety: human trafficking

Version: June 18, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: August 3, 2026

Policy Vote: ED. 7 - 0, JUD. 13 - 0

Mandate: Yes

Consultant: Lenin Del Castillo

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

Fiscal Impact:

- The Chancellor's Office estimates one-time Proposition 98 General Fund costs of between \$15,000 and \$29,000 per district, or \$1 million to \$2.1 million statewide, to develop or update a policy on human trafficking. The costs for the training content are minimal since free materials from the Department of Justice are allowed to be used.
- The California State University estimates minor and absorbable costs for campuses to update existing staff training on sexual harassment/violence to include the required information on human trafficking. There may also be increased workload to establish or update memoranda of understanding with local police as necessary, resulting in additional, unknown costs. Further, the CSU indicates there would be minor, one-time administrative costs per campus to post the required model notices.
- The University of California (UC) estimates minor and absorbable costs to update training and relevant policies.
- The Department of Justice anticipates no significant fiscal impact as a result of the bill.

Background: Existing federal law 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.

Existing federal law 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.”

Existing state law currently requires schools to post information on their websites related to the designated Title IX coordinator, rights of students and responsibilities of schools with regard to Title IX, and a description of how to file a complaint. In addition, state law requires each educational institution in California to have a written policy on sexual harassment.

Proposed Law: This bill requires a postsecondary institution, by July 1, 2027, to include as part of the training it provides for employees:

- 1) The definition of human trafficking, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking.
- 2) Myths and misconceptions about human trafficking.
- 3) Physical and mental signs to be aware of that may indicate that human trafficking is occurring.
- 4) Guidance on how to identify individuals who are most at risk for human trafficking.
- 5) Protocols for how to report human trafficking to campus and non-campus authorities.

This bill requires a postsecondary institution, by July 1, 2027, to ensure each employee annually completed the specified training and clarifies that they are 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. It also 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.

This bill requires a postsecondary institution to post and display the specified model notice on the institution’s website and in a prominent location on campus.

This bill requires every postsecondary institution who receives student financial aid assistance from the state to compile records of specified occurrences and require specified records of noncriminal acts of hate violence.

This bill removes language excluding the California Community Colleges from disclosing and reporting specific crimes that occur on campus to the authorities and the public, as specified.

This bill amends the Kristin Smart Campus Safety Act of 1998 to include human trafficking requirements and to also apply to the community colleges. Specifically, the bill 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.

This bill requires each postsecondary institution, as a condition of receiving state funds for student financial assistance, to adopt a policy concerning incidents of human trafficking that involve students, faculty, or staff, as specified. The bill also requires each postsecondary institution, as a condition for participation in the Cal Grant Program, to adopt and implement written policies and procedures to ensure that any report of human trafficking 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.

Staff Comments: Human trafficking is not 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 bill expands the definition of human trafficking and clarifies processes for how colleges and universities should address human trafficking, and includes several requirements postsecondary educational institutions, as a condition of receiving state financial assistance, including ensuring that employees complete annual training on human trafficking prevention and how to report human trafficking and compiling records of all occurrences of human trafficking reported to campus authorities, as well as reporting this information to the local law enforcement agency.

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