

Date of Hearing: April 22, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 1918 (Dixon) – As Amended March 24, 2026

Policy Committee: Judiciary

Vote: 12 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill adds body art facilities to the list of business establishments that must post a notice on human trafficking and provide at least 20 minutes of training regarding human trafficking to their employees.

FISCAL EFFECT:

No significant state costs. The bill does not create a new cause of action—it adds a category of business (body art facilities) to an existing list of businesses already required to comply with notice and training requirements and subject to civil penalties for noncompliance. To the extent public prosecutors bring new claims against body art facilities, there would be minor and likely absorbable court workload costs (Trial Court Trust Fund). Prosecutors can bring a claim for penalties only after a 30-day notice-and-cure period, limiting the number of claims that are filed in court.

COMMENTS:

Civil Code Section 52.6 requires numerous businesses and workplaces to post a notice in their establishments informing the employees and the general public of the risk of human trafficking and the hotlines one may call to report suspected instances of trafficking. Existing law also requires certain businesses to complete a 20-minute training about how to recognize the signs of human trafficking and how to appropriately report those signs. According to the author, human traffickers will often tattoo, burn or scar their victims as a way to denote ownership. This bill targets the apparent nexus between human trafficking and the body art industry by incorporating body art practitioners and establishments into Civil Code 52.6. The bill would require tattoo and piercing shops to both post the statutory notice and to ensure that practitioners complete the training requirement identified in statute.

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