

Date of Hearing: June 23, 2026

Counsel: Dustin Weber

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Nick Schultz, Chair

SB 1022 (Valladares) – As Amended June 15, 2026

SUMMARY: Establishes the California Multidisciplinary Alliance to Stop Trafficking Act (California MAST) task force to review collaborative models between governmental and nongovernmental organizations for protecting victims and survivors of trafficking, among other related duties. Specifically, **this bill**:

- 1) Establishes the California MAST to do all of the following:
 - a) Review collaborative models between governmental and nongovernmental organizations for protecting victims and survivors of trafficking.
 - b) Map the progress of the state in preventing trafficking, providing comprehensive assistance to victims and survivors of trafficking, and prosecuting persons engaged in trafficking.
 - c) Provide recommendations to strengthen state and local efforts to address the issues of human trafficking, including the role of forced criminality in human trafficking.
 - d) Prepare recommendations for all of the following:
 - i) The cost of conducting a statewide human trafficking prevalence study that identifies the types of trafficking, including sex and labor trafficking, and analyzes the characteristics of trafficked persons, including citizenship, gender, age, race, and any other factors the task force determines are necessary to understand the scope of human trafficking in California.
 - ii) The best entity to conduct the study.
 - iii) How often the study should be conducted.
 - e) The chair of the task force shall be appointed by the task force. The Office of Emergency Services shall provide staff and support for the task force, to the extent that resources are available.
 - f) The task force shall be composed of the following representatives or their designees:
 - i) The Attorney General.
 - ii) The Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development.

- iii) The Director of Social Services.
- iv) The Director of Health Care Services.
- v) The Director of Emergency Services.
- vi) The State Public Health Officer.
- vii) The Director of Housing and Community Development.
- viii) The Director of Transportation.
- ix) The Director of Civil Rights.
- x) A representative from the California Child Welfare Council.
- xi) One representative from the California District Attorneys Association.
- xii) One representative from the California Public Defenders Association.
- xiii) The Speaker of the Assembly shall appoint one representative from a human rights organization.
- xiv) The Senate Committee on Rules shall appoint one representative from an immigrant rights organization.
- xv) The Governor shall appoint all of the following:
 - (1) One survivor of labor trafficking.
 - (2) One survivor of sex trafficking.
 - (3) One survivor of familial trafficking. For the purposes of this section, familial trafficking occurs when a victim is trafficked by a family member or caregiver, or when a minor victim is sold by that minor's family member or caregiver to a third-party trafficker.
 - (4) One representative from a northern California organization that provides services to victims of human trafficking.
 - (5) One representative from a southern California organization that provides services to victims of human trafficking.
 - (6) One representative from a central California organization that provides services to victims of human trafficking.
 - (7) One university researcher with expertise related to human trafficking.
 - (8) One mental health expert with expertise related to human trafficking.

- xvi) The Attorney General shall appoint three representatives from tribal organizations from northern, central, and southern California.
 - g) Whenever possible, members of the task force shall have experience providing services to trafficked persons or have knowledge of human trafficking issues, including as a survivor of human trafficking.
 - h) The members of the task force shall serve at the pleasure of the respective appointing authority. Appointees may be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses of participation with approval of the appointing authority.
 - i) The task force shall meet at least four times. Subcommittees may be formed and meet as necessary. All meetings shall be open to the public. The first meeting of the task force shall be held no later than July 1, 2027.
 - j) On or before January 1, 2029, and on or before each January 1 thereafter, the task force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Office of Emergency Services, the Governor, the Attorney General, and the Legislature. At the request of any member, the report may include minority findings and recommendations.
- 2) Defines “trafficking” as sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; or the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.
- 3) Makes findings and declarations.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) States that a person who deprives or violates the personal liberty of another with the intent to obtain forced labor or services is guilty of human trafficking and shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for 5, 8, or 12 years and a fine of not more than \$500,000. (Pen. Code, § 236.1, subd. (a).)
- 2) States that a person who deprives or violates the personal liberty of another with the intent to commit specified sex crimes including pimping, pandering, or child pornography, is guilty of human trafficking and shall be punished by imprisonment in the state prison for 8, 14, or 20 years and a fine of not more than \$500,000. (Pen. Code, § 236.1, subd. (b).)
- 3) Specifies 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 commit specified crimes including pimping, pandering, or child pornography, is guilty of human trafficking. A violation is punishable by imprisonment in the state prison as follows:
 - a) Five, 8, or 12 years and a fine of not more than \$500,000; or,

- b) Fifteen years-to-life and a fine of not more than \$500,000 when the offense involves force, fear, fraud, deceit, coercion, violence, duress, menace, or threat of unlawful injury to the victim or to another person. (Pen. Code, § 236.1, subd. (c).)

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Sponsor:** California Survivor Coalition
- 2) **Author's Statement:** According to the author, "Senate Bill 1022 establishes the California multidisciplinary Alliance to Stop Trafficking (MAST) Task Force. The Task Force is designed to strengthen the state's response to human trafficking by bringing together state agencies, local partners, service providers, and survivors to review current policies, identify gaps, and provide recommendations for coordinated, survivor-informed policies to prevent trafficking, support victims, and address prosecution. Human trafficking remains a complex crime in California, despite significant state investments, efforts to tackle the issue are often fragmented across agencies and jurisdictions. The lack of coordination creates gaps in victim identification and services, inconsistent reporting and data collection, limited collaboration between law enforcement and service providers, and barriers to addressing the root causes of trafficking. The MAST Task Force will advance a coordinated and survivor-informed approach to strengthen California's leadership in the global fight against human trafficking."
- 3) **Effect of the Bill:** SB 1022 would establish the California MAST task force. California has a two-decade history with these task forces. In 2005, SB 180 (Keuhl) established the California Alliance to Combat Trafficking and Slavery (California ACTS) Task Force, which was later repealed. In 2019, the Legislature passed SB 35 (Chang) to reestablish the California ACTS Task Force, but Governor Newsom vetoed SB 35. The Governor's veto message read, in part:

This bill's goals are laudable, and I share the author and proponents' concerns around the scourge of human trafficking in California. Through this year's budget we have invested in services for victims of trafficking, as well as studies on the scope of the problem in certain high incidence counties.

However, any new or reconstituted taskforce such as the one envisioned by the bill should be considered and evaluated through the budget process, not stand-alone legislation.

AB 2553 (Grayson, 2022) would have established the California Multidisciplinary Alliance to Stop Trafficking task force. That bill died in Senate Appropriations.

The MAST Task Force would do the following: 1) review collaborative models between governmental and nongovernmental organizations for protecting victims and survivors of trafficking; 2) map the progress of the state in preventing trafficking, providing comprehensive assistance to victims and survivors of trafficking, and prosecuting persons engaged in trafficking; and 3) provide recommendations to strengthen state and local efforts to address the issue of human trafficking, including the role of forced criminality in human

trafficking. The Office of Emergency Services would staff and support the task force to the extent that resources are available. The chair of the task force would be appointed by the task force.

The task force would have 23 members from across California and its government. Whenever possible, members of the task force should have experience providing services to trafficked persons or have knowledge of human trafficking issues, including as a survivor of human trafficking. The members of the task force would serve at the pleasure of their appointing authority. The task force must meet at least four times and all meetings must be open to the public.

- 4) **Trafficking Research:** A study by the International Human Rights Clinic at the University of Southern California (USC), using interviews with 42 human trafficking experts, a comprehensive literature review, and public records requests, found that law enforcement operations identify few trafficking victims, emphasizing that operations primarily target sex work and often treat victims as criminals.¹ The National Survivor Network conducted a 2016 survey on the long-term impact of criminal arrests and convictions on survivors of human trafficking.² It found that 90.8% of 130 trafficking survivor respondents reported having been arrested and more than half of the respondents reported that their arrests occurred because of trafficking.³ Notably, immigrant survivors of sex trafficking, regardless of whether they are undocumented, can face deportation due to a misdemeanor prostitution charge.⁴ Survivors also report that they are pressured by law enforcement to divulge information, and if they refuse, they are charged with crimes.⁵

Critics argue that these law enforcement operations are often anti-sex work efforts rebranded as anti-sex trafficking interventions.⁶ The USC report recommended that law enforcement reduce anti-trafficking operations and redirect resources to community and public health led approaches to prevent human trafficking, which the report contended are more effective and less harmful to victims.⁷

- 5) **Argument in Support:** According to the *California Survivor Coalition*, “Human trafficking is not one crime with one face. It is sex trafficking and labor trafficking, CSEC and familial abuse, foreign nationals and U.S. citizens, children and adults. It crosses county lines, agency jurisdictions, and professional silos. And for too long, California’s response has reflected exactly that fragmentation—agencies working in isolation, service providers operating without coordination, data that does not speak across systems, and survivors falling through the gaps between them. A statewide, multidisciplinary response is not a luxury. It is the only approach that matches the scale and complexity of the problem.

¹ *Over-Policing Sex Trafficking: How U.S. Law Enforcement Should Reform Operations* (Nov. 2021) International Human Rights Clinic at USC Gould School of Law <<https://humanrightscclinic.usc.edu/over-policing-sex-trafficking/>> [as of June 11, 2026].

² *Id.* at p. 11

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ *Id.* at p. 12.

⁶ *Id.* at p. 11.

⁷ *Id.* at p. 52.

“SB 1022 rises to that challenge. By establishing a statewide task force that brings together government agencies, non-profit service providers, and subject matter experts to identify best practices, close service gaps, and strengthen California's coordinated response to trafficking, this bill creates the infrastructure that survivors have long said is missing. The task force's mandate to report findings and recommendations directly to the Governor, the Attorney General, the Legislature, and the Office of Emergency Services means its work will carry weight and reach the decision-makers who can act on it.

“We commend Senator Valladares for her leadership in bringing this bill forward with bipartisan urgency and for her determination to ensure that California finally delivers a coordinated response that survivors deserve.

“SB 1022 also reflects survivor voice. Policy powered by lived experience is not only more just; it is more effective. Survivors understand the gaps in services, the failures of identification, the barriers to exit, and the needs of recovery in ways that no data set or professional report can fully capture.

“The California Survivor Coalition stands ready to support the implementation of SB 1022. We bring the lived expertise of survivors across all trafficking typologies, and we are committed to contributing to a coordinated California response that is survivor-centered, trauma-informed, and built to last. We urge this body to pass SB 1022 and to ensure that, when the task force convenes, survivors are not an afterthought—they are the foundation.”

- 6) **Argument in Opposition:** According to *DecrimSexWorkCA*, “While addressing human trafficking and other forms of coercion and exploitation are valuable goals for the state of California that *DecrimSexWorkCA* lauds, we have seen countless “Human Trafficking Task Forces” convened that produced counterproductive results—if any.

“Typically, these task forces, especially when primarily comprised of government-representatives and organizations who have a dependent relationship with law enforcement, end up harmfully conflating sex work with human trafficking, even though most sex work happens outside of a trafficking context and most trafficking happens outside of the context of the commercial sex industry. The result is policy recommendations which focus on ultimately “prosecuting persons engaged in [sex] trafficking,” even at the cost of failing to take actions which could prevent or reduce trafficking and violence, such as the decriminalization of sex work.

“A human trafficking task force that is not structured to be able to question the criminalization of sex work as a major cause of sex trafficking – or to any way understand the commercial sex industry – will be unable to make any useful recommendations to prevent or reduce sex trafficking, even though sex trafficking is a highly politicized subject and may take up the majority of the task force’s time.

“There are productive steps that we can take to address human trafficking, including by trying to keep people’s criminal records clear and keep vital resources funded, but this task force seems posed to offer solutions designed to keep survivors in handcuffs and programming, even while the state fails to find the money to adequately fund non-carceral survivor, sex worker, immigrant, transgender, and youth services that have been proven effective.

“The ACLU, UN Working Group on Discrimination Against Women and Girls, Human Rights Watch, and Amnesty International have all published briefs and position statements highlighting how criminalization of sex work directly contributes to sex trafficking, other forms of sexual violence, and the economic and political disenfranchisement of women and gender minorities. At the same time, USC’s human rights clinic undertook the more specific task of thoroughly reviewing police practices throughout the U.S. and concluded that law enforcement anti-trafficking efforts utterly fail to reduce, prevent, or identify & deter sex trafficking. Because those operations tend to conflate sex work with sex trafficking, focus primarily on making arrests, and rely on arresting consensual sex workers and their clients, they end up making people more vulnerable to trafficking and making trafficking and other violence in the sex industry harder to identify or prevent.

“A task force composed primarily of government agents, together with a single survivor of sex trafficking, a single survivor of labor trafficking (outside of the commercial sex context) and a single survivor of familial trafficking would be primed to view trafficking in a narrow lens that will be dictated by law enforcement and their close collaborators. It would inevitably preclude upstream solutions to prevent trafficking, such as the decriminalization of sex work, establishment of a right to housing, or radically (and adequately) funding social services for trans people, immigrants, and youth.”

7) **Related Legislation:**

- a) AB 1245 (Stefani) would require a contractor to certify that the contract complies with specified requirements relating to human trafficking, including certain prohibitions on contractors, contractor employees, subcontractors, subcontractor employees, and their agents.. AB 1245 is pending hearing in the Senate Governmental Organization Committee.
- b) AB 1541 (Dixon) would require that the information included on the OpenJustice Web portal include the number of individuals arrested, the number of individuals convicted, and the number of victims of human trafficking, as specified. AB 1541 is pending hearing in the Senate Public Safety Committee.
- c) AB 1656 (Davies) would add human trafficking to the list of crimes authorizing good cause continuances. AB 1656 is pending hearing in the Senate Public Safety Committee.
- d) AB 1845 (Krell) would require postsecondary educational institutions to include specified human trafficking items to employee training, among other things. AB 1845 is pending hearing in the Senate Education Committee.
- e) AB 2720 (Schiavo) would require each law enforcement agency with more than 25 peace officers to designate at least one human trafficking victim support coordinator by January 1, 2028. AB 2720 is pending hearing in the Senate Public Safety Committee.

8) **Prior Legislation:**

- a) AB 381 (Stefani), of the 2025-2026 Legislative Session, was nearly identical to AB 1245 above. AB 381 was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

- b) AB 603 (Alanis), of the 2025-2026 Legislative Session, would have rename the act as the “California Control of Profits of Organized Crime and Human Trafficking Act” and recast its provisions to authorize the forfeiture of property and proceeds acquired through human trafficking without the requirement to establish a pattern of criminal profiteering activity. The hearing on AB 603 in this committee was canceled at the request of the author.
- c) AB 633 (Krell), of the 2025-2026 Legislative Session, would have expanded vacatur relief to persons convicted of or arrested for any offense committed when they were under the age of 18 and while they were a victim of human trafficking. The hearing on AB 633 in this committee was canceled at the request of the author.
- d) AB 2451 (Elhawary), of the 2025-2026 Legislative Session, would have authorized a child who is or was a victim of human trafficking, and whose parent or guardian has failed or was unable to protect the child, to be adjudged a dependent of the juvenile court, thereby expanding the bases on which a child can be adjudged a dependent child of the juvenile court to explicitly include children who are victims of labor trafficking. AB 2451 was held in the Assembly Human Services Committee.
- e) AB 1739 (Sanchez), of the 2023-2024 Legislative Session, would have required the Office of Emergency Services to allocate and award funds to up to 11 district attorney offices that employ a vertical prosecution methodology for the prosecution of human trafficking crimes and that meet other specified criteria, including minimum staffing levels for the program. AB 1739 was held in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.
- f) SB 14 (Grove), Chapter 230, Statutes of 2023, included human trafficking of a minor within the definition of a serious felony for all purposes, including for purposes of the Three Strikes Law, except as specified.
- g) SB 376 (Rubio), Chapter 109, Statutes of 2023, provided that a victim of human trafficking or abuse has the right to have a human trafficking advocate and a support person of the victim’s choosing present at an interview by a law enforcement authority, prosecutor, or the suspect’s defense attorney and would require the human trafficking advocate to advise the victim of the applicable limitations on the confidentiality of the victim’s communications with the advocate.
- h) AB 2553 (Grayson), of the 2021-2022 Legislative Session, was substantially similar to this bill. AB 2553 died in Senate Appropriations.
- i) SB 750 (Melendez), of the 2021-2022 Legislative Session, would have established the California Alliance to Combat Trafficking and Slavery (California ACTS) Task Force to collect and organize data on the nature and extent of trafficking of persons in California. The hearing on SB 750 in the Senate Public Safety Committee was canceled at the request of the author.
- j) SB 35 (Chang), of the 2019-2020 Legislative Session, would have established the California Alliance to Combat Trafficking and Slavery (California ACTS) Task Force. SB 35 was vetoed by the Governor.

- k) SB 180 (Kuehl), Chapter 239, Statutes of 2005, established the California Alliance to Combat Trafficking and Slavery (California ACTS) Task Force.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**Support**

California Survivor Coalition (Sponsor)
3strands Global Foundation
Arcadia Police Officers' Association
Brea Police Association
Burbank Police Officers' Association
California Association of School Police Chiefs
California Catholic Conference
California Coalition of School Safety Professionals
California Narcotic Officers' Association
California Reserve Peace Officers Association
Claremont Police Officers Association
Corona Police Officers Association
Culver City Police Officers' Association
Fullerton Police Officers' Association
Little Hoover Commission
Los Angeles School Police Management Association
Los Angeles School Police Officers Association
Los Angeles Unified School District
Murrieta Police Officers' Association
Newport Beach Police Association
Palos Verdes Police Officers Association
Placer County Deputy Sheriffs' Association
Pomona Police Officers' Association
Riverside Police Officers Association
Riverside Sheriffs' Association

Opposition

Decrimsexworkca (DECRIMSWCA)
Erotic Service Providers Legal, Education, and Research Project
Local 148 Los Angeles County Public Defender's Union

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