

Subject Amending the crimes related to labor trafficking

Authors Feist

Analyst Ben Johnson (ben.johnson@house.mn.gov)

Date January 9, 2023

Overview

This bill makes changes to definitions related to the crimes of labor trafficking, creates the crime of labor trafficking that results in death, and creates enhanced penalties for labor trafficking a person over an extended period of time or when a labor trafficking victim suffers great bodily harm as a result of the trafficking.

Summary

Section	Description
1	Definitions. Deletes the definition of “blackmail” and makes a conforming change to adopt the term “forced or coerced labor or services.”
2	Public awareness initiative. Makes a conforming change to remove the term “blackmail” and adopt the term “forced or coerced labor or services.”
3	Debt bondage. Amends the definition of “debt bondage” by removing references to a pledge by a debtor and defining the term as the status of a person who provides labor or services for a real or alleged debt when the value of the labor or services is not deducted from the debt or the length and nature of the services is not limited or defined.
4	Forced or coerced labor or services. Makes changes to the definition of “forced or coerced labor or services” to specify the types of harm or threat of harm that qualifies as forcing labor or services.
5	Labor trafficking. Amends the definition of “labor trafficking” to include actions done in furtherance of prohibited conduct and makes additional technical changes.

Section	Description
6	Labor trafficking resulting in death. Establishes the crime of labor trafficking resulting in death. Provides that a person who knowingly engages in the labor trafficking of an individual may be sentenced to up to 25 years in prison if the labor trafficking victim dies and the death arose out of and in the course of the trafficking.
7	Individuals under age 18; extended period of time; great bodily harm. Establishes an enhanced crime of labor trafficking a person over an extended period of time or when the victim suffers great bodily harm. Includes the existing crime of trafficking a person under age 18 in the new subdivision. Establishes a maximum penalty of 20 years for the offense.
8	Repealer. Repeals the definition of “blackmail” in section 609.281, subdivision 2.



**MN HOUSE
RESEARCH**

Minnesota House Research Department provides nonpartisan legislative, legal, and information services to the Minnesota House of Representatives. This document can be made available in alternative formats.

www.house.mn/hrd | 651-296-6753 | 155 State Office Building | St. Paul, MN 55155