

# ASSEMBLY, No. 1729

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 220th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2022 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman SHANIQUE SPEIGHT**

**District 29 (Essex)**

**Assemblywoman VERLINA REYNOLDS-JACKSON**

**District 15 (Hunterdon and Mercer)**

**Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman Jimenez and Assemblyman McClellan**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires AG to establish Human Trafficking and Underserved Communities Unit.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/10/2022)**

1 AN ACT concerning human trafficking and underserved  
2 communities and supplementing Title 52 of the Revised Statutes.

3

4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. a. The Attorney General shall establish in the Division of  
8 Criminal Justice in the Department of Law and Public Safety a unit  
9 to be known as the Human Trafficking and Underserved  
10 Communities Unit. The purpose of the unit shall be to address the  
11 specific needs and vulnerabilities related to human trafficking  
12 which are experienced by members of underserved communities,  
13 particularly girls and women of color.

14 b. The responsibilities of the unit shall include, but not be  
15 limited to:

16 (1) coordinating with the Division of State Police and municipal  
17 and county law enforcement agencies to investigate cases related to  
18 human trafficking in underserved communities;

19 (2) coordinating with relevant government entities, including,  
20 but not limited to the Victims of Crime Compensation Office,  
21 established pursuant to section 2 of P.L.2007, c.95 (C.52:4B-3.2)  
22 and the Commission on Human Trafficking, established pursuant to  
23 section 1 of P.L.2013, c.51 (C.52:17B-237), and community-based  
24 organizations to create and administer programs to connect victims  
25 to appropriate and effective information and resources; and

26 (3) collecting and maintaining data related to human trafficking  
27 cases and trends concerning members of underserved communities.

28

29 2. This act shall take effect on the first day of fourth month  
30 next following enactment, except that the Attorney General may  
31 take any anticipatory action in advance of that date as shall be  
32 necessary for the implementation of this act.

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35 STATEMENT

36

37 This bill requires the Attorney General to establish a unit to  
38 address human trafficking related to members of underserved  
39 communities.

40 Under the bill, the Attorney General would be required to  
41 establish in the Division of Criminal Justice in the Department of  
42 Law and Public Safety a unit to be known as the Human Trafficking  
43 and Underserved Communities Unit. The purpose of the unit would  
44 be to address the specific needs and vulnerabilities related to  
45 human trafficking which are experienced by members of  
46 underserved communities, particularly girls and women of color.

47 The bill provides that the responsibilities of the unit would  
48 include, but not be limited to:

- 1 (1) coordinating with the Division of State Police and municipal  
2 and county law enforcement agencies to investigate cases related to  
3 human trafficking in underserved communities;
- 4 (2) coordinating with relevant government entities, including,  
5 but not limited to the Victims of Crime Compensation Office and  
6 the Commission on Human Trafficking), and community-based  
7 organizations to create and administer programs to connect victims  
8 to appropriate and effective information and resources; and
- 9 (3) collecting and maintaining data related to human trafficking  
10 cases and trends concerning members of underserved communities.