

ALABAMA LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

A 2000-2025 review of Alabama's legislative efforts to address human trafficking, with recommendations on what is needed next to increase impact, including efforts to strengthen:

TRAINING & OUTREACH

LABOR TRAFFICKING

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

SURVIVOR SUPPORT

MINORS-FOCUSED RESPONSE

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NOTE: The recommendations made in this report are the result of a comprehensive review of Alabama legislative history to date, along with an analysis of all the data gathered for the Engage Together Project Reports for Alabama, and the needs shared by local anti-trafficking organizations.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY

Engage Together Project for Alabama is made possible by a partnership with the Alabama Attorney General's Office and The WellHouse, and is being accomplished alongside a host of local and national partners too. Special thanks also to the Institute of Data and Analytics at the University of Alabama and Dark Watch. Learn more about the project and partners by going to the project website at engagetgether.com/alabama.

Purpose

This report is a supplemental resource to Engage Together® Project reports for Alabama. It provides a comprehensive overview of Alabama’s legislative history on human trafficking from 2000 to 2025. It includes major statutory developments, victim protections, law enforcement changes, and significant legislative reforms, organized chronologically, with recommendations for next steps.

ICONS: To help with your review, we’ve included the following icons next to each legislative summary to serve as visual cues regarding the focus and/or intended purpose of each effort.



Victim Rights



Criminal Justice



Minors-Focused



Labor Trafficking



Industry-Focused



Training & Education

Review this Legislative Report alongside the full Alabama Community Assessment reports and the Directory for a clearer picture of the current strengths, gaps, needs, and opportunities to enhance your efforts to end and prevent human trafficking.



Use these reports to catalyze deeper conversations, greater collaborations, and strategic planning for your local communities and state.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

The following pages provide a comprehensive overview of Alabama's legislative history to address human trafficking from:

2000-2025

2010



Act 2010-705 (HB 432, 2010) – Established Alabama’s first human trafficking laws through the 2010 “Representatives Jack Williams and Merika Coleman Act,” [Ala. Code §13A-6-150](#) which:

- **Created Human Trafficking in the First Degree** (Class A felony): includes knowingly subjecting another to labor or sexual servitude or recruiting/transporting a minor for sexual servitude, with no defense based on lack of knowledge of age or minor’s consent. [Ala. Code §13A-6-151](#); [Ala. Code §13A-6-152](#).
- **Created Human Trafficking in the Second Degree** (Class B felony): includes benefitting from or facilitating trafficking activity. [Ala. Code §13A-6-153](#).
- **Defined “labor servitude” and “sexual servitude”** and criminalized coercion into either. [Ala. Code §13A-6-151](#).
- **Barred key defenses**, including mistake of age, consent, or prior sexual history in cases involving minors. [Ala. Code §13A-6-154](#).
- **Established corporate criminal liability**: corporations can be prosecuted if trafficking is committed by an agent within the scope of employment.
- **Mandated asset forfeiture and restitution**, prioritizing payments to:
 - 1. Victims (mandatory restitution),
 - 2. Civil damages awarded to victims,
 - 3. Alabama Crime Victims Compensation Fund. [Ala. Code §13A-6-155](#)
- **Created a civil cause of action** for victims to sue traffickers for:
 - Compensatory and punitive damages,
 - Injunctive relief, or Attorney’s fees.
 - Statute of limitations is tolled during periods of the victim’s legal “disability.” [Ala. Code §13A-6-157](#)
- **Provided an affirmative defense for trafficking victims** charged with crimes committed as a direct result of being trafficked. [Ala. Code §13A-6-159](#)
Signed by the Governor April 21, 2010. Effective July 1, 2010.

2012



[Act 2012-265 \(SB50\)](#). — This act required certain establishments to **post the national human trafficking hotline information** in a visible place. Specifically, **any business that holds a liquor license or alcoholic beverage license that does not also have a good or beverage permit, any hotel that has been cited as a prostitution-related public nuisance, any massage parlor cited for illicit activity, any business that provides entertainment commonly called “stripteasing” or “topless entertaining” and any airport, train, or bus station** must display a poster with the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline (1-888-373-7888). The poster must meet size and content requirements (at least 8½” x 11” with specified language in English and Spanish) informing the public and potential victims that help is available 24/7. **Penalties** were established for businesses that fail to post the notices. [Ala. Code Ala. Code § 13A-6-170](#)
Signed by the Governor May 9, 2012. Effective January 1, 2013.

2014



HJR270 – This House Joint Resolution unanimously passed by the Legislature created the **Alabama Human Trafficking Task Force**. The Task Force included legislators, law enforcement, prosecutors, state agencies, and victim advocates. Its **mandate** (detailed in the resolution) was to “combat all aspects of human trafficking, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking,” to develop a **comprehensive response**, to **coordinate victim services**, and to focus on prevention efforts to end demand. The Task Force was directed to meet quarterly (meetings open to the public) and report on policy recommendations. The Task Force had its initial meeting on June 1, 2014, and met quarterly after that. **Note:** The Task Force’s work continues today with quarterly public meetings, legislative engagement, and expanded prevention and victim support efforts across the state. *No signature required by the Governor. Effective April 3, 2014.*

2016



Act 2016-282 (HB433) – Known as the “**Human Trafficking Safe Harbor Act**,” Ala. Code §§ 13A-6-180 through 13A-6-184, this law:

- Created essential protections for sexually exploited children while increasing penalties for those who purchase sex.
- Prohibited prosecuting or adjudicating a minor for prostitution when the minor is a victim of sexual exploitation or trafficking, directing juvenile courts to treat the child as in need of care rather than as a delinquent.
- Increased penalties for those convicted of prostitution, raising the fine for solicitation to \$500 for a first offense and elevating a third offense to a Class C felony, while moving solicitation cases from municipal to state district courts to ensure more consistent enforcement.
- Created a program that required those convicted of promoting prostitution with no prior prostitution-related arrests and convictions to complete counseling or an educational program aimed at reducing recidivism.
- Created provisions protecting foreign national victims from improper detention and secured their access to services.

Signed by the Governor May 10, 2016. Effective May 10, 2016

2018



Act 2018-385 (SB 179, 2018) – This bill narrowly focused on **increasing penalties in child trafficking cases**.

- Imposed a **mandatory minimum sentence of life imprisonment** for any conviction of **first-degree human trafficking where the victim is a minor and the defendant is 19 years of age or older**. Ala. Code § 13A-6-152(e)
- Reiterated that **interfering with the enforcement of trafficking laws** (e.g. hiding a child victim or threatening a witness) is a Class A felony, underscoring zero tolerance for those who would obstruct justice. *Signed by the Governor March 19, 2018. Effective June 1, 2018.*

Continued on the next page

2018



Act 2018-506 (HB 305, 2018)- This omnibus trafficking bill made numerous changes to broaden definitions, close loopholes, and enhance victim remedies:

- **Expanded Definition of Trafficking & New Offenses:** The act amended Ala. Code § 13A-6-151 (definitions) and Ala. Code § 13A-6-152 to include additional forms of conduct. It explicitly criminalized patronizing a minor for sex as trafficking. A person **“who knowingly gives or offers anything of value to engage in sexual conduct with a minor (or someone believed to be a minor)”** is guilty of human trafficking in the first degree. The act also added Ala. Code § 13A-6-157.1 to empower the Alabama Attorney General to bring civil actions to enjoin trafficking and seize assets, and Ala. Code § 13A-6-162 to impose civil penalties up to \$50,000 per violation (with funds supporting enforcement).
- **“Offenses Involving Minors” – Promoting Prostitution Update: A new Class B felony** offense, Ala. Code § 13A-12-121.1, was created to specifically punish any involvement of a minor in prostitution. Under this section, “No person shall commit an act of prostitution with a minor” and any violation is a Class B felony. Additionally, Ala. Code § 13A-12-124 was added to categorically exclude certain defenses in cases of prostituting a minor: a defendant cannot claim as a defense the minor’s sexual history, the minor’s consent or willingness, the minor’s misrepresentation of age, or the fact that the minor is over the age of consent for other purposes.
- **Increased Penalties for Traffickers:** It amended § 13A-6-152(d) to make **obstructing or interfering with a human trafficking investigation a Class A felony**, up from a lower class. (At the time, Class A felonies in Alabama carried 10 years to life; this was further toughened in a separate bill below.)
- **Massage Therapy Businesses:** The act amended **Title 34, Chapter 43** (Massage Therapy Board statutes) to strengthen licensing enforcement. It added provisions allowing the Board to **deny or revoke licenses if an establishment or therapist is involved in trafficking or prostitution.**
- **Victim Record Relief (Expungement):** Recognizing that many trafficking victims carry criminal records for acts done under duress, the 2018 law amended Ala. Code §§ 15-27-1 and 15-27-2 (the expungement statute). It enabled victims of trafficking to petition to expunge criminal convictions for prostitution and related offenses that occurred while they were being trafficked.

*Signed by the Governor March 28, 2018. Effective July 1, 2019. **Note:** The long delay was due to the act requiring structured updates to licensing and expungement processes.*

2019



Act 2019-417 (HB261) – This law mandates that **trade schools and junior colleges in Alabama** offering commercial driver’s license (CDL) training must include **industry-specific instruction on recognizing, preventing, and reporting human trafficking** as part of their truck driving curriculum. The **Alabama Community College System Board of Trustees** is responsible for ensuring compliance and must **annually update the training** in partnership with anti-trafficking organizations to reflect evolving trends. Additionally, **private driver training schools** are required to make their **best effort** to incorporate the same training. **Ala. Code §16-60-117.1**. *Signed by the Governor on May 31, 2019. Effective January 1, 2020.*

2021



Act 2021-201 (HB131) - This law mandated that all individuals shall be entitled to reasonable bail prior to conviction, except for specific crimes which included human trafficking in the first degree. Ala. Code § 15-13-3(b)(1)(g). *Signed by the Governor April 27, 2021. Effective April 27, 2021.*



Act 2021-267 (HB130)- A companion law to HB131. This law treats **first-degree human trafficking** as a serious and potentially non-bailable offense. It gives courts the authority to **detain alleged traffickers pretrial without bond** when public safety is at risk, reflecting Alabama's commitment to treating trafficking as a violent and dangerous crime. Ala. Code § 15-13-3(b)(1)(g). *Signed by the Governor May 6, 2021. Effective May 6, 2021.*

2022



Act 2022-398 (HB 434)- Created Ala. Code § 15-26A-1, et seq., authorized the use of **video-recorded depositions and closed-circuit video testimony** in human trafficking prosecutions. Under this act, courts may order a pre-recorded **video deposition of a trafficking victim or witness, to be used at trial in lieu of live testimony** if certain conditions are met. The law also allows witnesses (e.g. therapist or support person) to accompany the victim during testimony for support. *Signed by the Governor May 24, 2022. Effective July 1, 2022.*



Act 2022-435 (HB 284)- It amended Ala. Code § 13A-6-151 to “include additional offenses” in the definition of human trafficking. It clarified that certain acts (likely those added in 2018, such as the new promotion-of-minor prostitution offense or electronic solicitation) fall under the umbrella of trafficking. *Signed by the Governor May 27, 2022. Effective October 1, 2022.*

2024



Act 2024-87 (HB 42, 2024)- This act essentially reaffirmed and broadcast the policy that anyone convicted of first-degree human trafficking of a minor will serve life in prison. It amended Ala. Code § 13A-6-152 cementing the mandatory “sentence of life imprisonment when the victim was a minor”. *Signed by the Governor March 7, 2024. Effective October 1, 2024.*

2025



Act 2025-368 (HB94) - Amends Alabama’s statute on human trafficking in the second degree to modernize its language (i.e. change language to “he or she” besides just a person) and expand its scope. It clarifies that individuals commit this crime if they knowingly benefit from or participate in ventures involving sexual or labor servitude, including by recruiting, transporting, or advertising victims. The law also allows corporations to be held criminally liable if trafficking occurs through their agents within the scope of employment. Additionally, it makes obstructing or interfering with enforcement of this section a Class B felony. The offense itself remains classified as a Class B felony. §13A-6-153 *Signed by the Governor May 20, 2025. Effective October 1, 2025.*

LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

The following pages provide recommendations for Alabama's legislature to consider in order to strengthen its efforts to end and prevent human trafficking, and to care well for all those impacted by it, especially in the areas of:

TRAINING & OUTREACH

LABOR TRAFFICKING

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

SURVIVOR SUPPORT

MINORS-FOCUSED RESPONSE

Recommendations to strengthen:

TRAINING & OUTREACH

Expand Human Trafficking Hotline Signage Requirements

Alabama law currently requires human trafficking hotline signage in a limited set of establishments, primarily adult-oriented businesses and certain transit locations. However, victims and survivors of trafficking routinely pass through a much broader range of public-facing spaces, including nail salons, spas, massage establishments, hotels, transportation hubs, health clinics, and other service-oriented businesses. Expanding signage requirements to additional high-contact establishments would strengthen prevention and awareness efforts and increase access to help for both victims and employees who may observe indicators of exploitation.

Recommended Next Steps

ACTION

Amend Ala. Code § 13A-6-170 to expand human trafficking hotline signage requirements to additional public-facing establishments, including nail salons, spas, and massage establishments, regardless of licensing status or citation history, with standardized statewide signage, clear placement, and multilingual accessibility requirements.

LEAD

Alabama Task Force + Department of Labor & Workforce Development + Department of Transportation + Department of Health + local licensing authorities.

MODEL(S)

- [Human Trafficking Prevention Act of 2022](#) - Federal mandate for posting human trafficking hotline signage in federally regulated locations.
- Georgia - [O.C.G.A. § 16-5-47](#)
- Arkansas - [A.C.A. § 12-19-102](#)
- Connecticut - [Conn. Gen. Stat. § 54-234a](#)

MECHANISM

Amend § 13A-6-170 to require posting of standardized, task-force-approved hotline signage in locations clearly visible to both customers and employees, and clarify that compliance is required regardless of an establishment's licensure status or regulatory standing.

Equip Regulatory Agencies with Labor Trafficking Training

Labor trafficking is often hidden in everyday workplaces, and frontline regulatory agencies are best positioned to see the signs. Equipping inspectors and staff of the Departments of Labor & Workforce Development, Commerce & Insurance, and Agriculture & Industries with tools and training will strengthen identification, protect vulnerable workers, and hold traffickers and businesses accountable.

Recommended Next Steps

ACTION

Require annual labor trafficking prevention and response training for agencies responsible for enforcing labor standards, licensing workplaces, or inspecting industries where exploitation is most likely, using task-force-approved, role-specific training standards.

LEAD

Department of Labor & Workforce Development + Department of Commerce & Insurance + Alabama Law Enforcement (ALEA) + Alabama State Port Authority + Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) + Agriculture and Industries + in partnership with Alabama Human Trafficking Task Force and survivor-informed training providers.

MODEL(S)

- North Carolina - DOL develops training. [NC Gen. Stat. § 130A-511](#)
- Minnesota - [Labor Trafficking Protocol & Labor Standards Integration](#)

MECHANISM

Standardize labor trafficking indicator checklists, reporting, and referral protocols for inspectors using state-approved training standards, and require high-risk businesses to complete certified training at licensure or renewal.

Recommendations to strengthen:

TRAINING & OUTREACH

Expand Required Training to Hospitality & Healthcare Industries

Workers in healthcare (e.g. walk-in clinics and emergency rooms) and hospitality (e.g. lodging, transportation, and personal-services) are often the first community members to encounter human trafficking victims, but most have not received training to recognize or respond to it. Expanding mandatory training requirements to these critical professions and industries would improve identification, intervention, and care.

Recommended Next Steps (Hospitality)

ACTION

Require all businesses and service providers in hospitality, lodging, rideshare, transportation, massage and body-work parlors, and other high-risk service sectors to deliver state-approved human trafficking awareness and response training for employees.

LEAD

Department of Commerce & Insurance + Department of Labor & Workforce Development + Alabama Task Force + Department of Transportation

MODEL(S)

- Florida - Hospitality training mandate. [Fla. Stat. § 509.096](#)
- [King County, Washington](#) - Local mandate requiring ride-share drivers to take human trafficking course

MECHANISM

Require hospitality businesses to complete certified human trafficking training at licensing and renewal using a task-force-approved, standardized curriculum, with content tailored to employee roles and available in multiple languages.

Recommended Next Steps (Healthcare)

ACTION

Require hospitals, clinics, urgent care centers, mental health facilities, and public health agencies to provide state-approved human trafficking awareness and response training to frontline staff, including medical, intake, emergency, and social work personnel.

LEAD

Alabama Department of Health + Alabama Bureau of Investigation + Department of Human Services + Alabama Board of Nursing / relevant licensing boards + Alabama Department of Mental Health

MODEL(S)

- Connecticut - requires hospital staff who have contact with human trafficking victims to take required training. [Conn. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 319a-17a-106h\(b\)-\(c\)](#)
- Florida - One-hour mandatory human-trafficking CE for Florida health-care licensees. [Fla. Stat. § 456.0341](#)

MECHANISM

Integrate human trafficking training into licensing and certification requirements using a task-force-approved, trauma-informed curriculum, with initial training and periodic refreshers emphasizing identification, reporting obligations, and referral protocols.

LABOR TRAFFICKING RESPONSE

Develop a Comprehensive Labor Trafficking Response Strategy

Labor trafficking remains significantly under-identified and underreported in Alabama, despite occurring across industries such as agriculture, construction, forestry, hospitality, manufacturing, domestic work, massage parlors/nail salons, day labor, and subcontracted labor. While Alabama has made progress in addressing sex trafficking, labor trafficking needs strengthening across regulatory, enforcement, and service systems. Responsibilities related to inspections, licensing, investigations, and survivor support appear dispersed among multiple agencies, limiting coordination and consistent response. A comprehensive, statewide labor trafficking strategy would align training, enforcement, and survivor services—ensuring regulatory agencies are equipped to identify exploitation, investigators can coordinate across jurisdictions, and survivors have clear pathways to safety, recovery, and wage restitution.

Recommended Next Steps

ACTION

Require development of a Comprehensive Labor Trafficking Response Strategy coordinated through Alabama’s existing anti-trafficking framework to align agency roles, training, enforcement, and survivor services. The strategy should address labor trafficking identification and response across regulatory agencies, law enforcement, and workforce systems, and establish a coordinated statewide approach to survivor referral and care.

LEAD

Alabama Human Trafficking Task Force + Attorney General's Office + Department of Labor and Workforce Development + Department of Commerce + Agriculture and Industries + Department of Transportation + Alabama Law Enforcement Agency + relevant licensing and inspection authorities.

MODEL(S)

- [California Labor Trafficking Strategy \(2020\)](#)— integrates training, licensing oversight, survivor services, and regional coordination
- [Minnesota Safe Harbor Expansion \(Labor Pilot\)](#)— includes cross-sector training and culturally responsive care
- [Illinois Labor Trafficking Response Plan - Cooke County Task Force](#)
- [Washington State’s Labor Trafficking Response Plan](#)

MECHANISM

Direct the Alabama Human Trafficking Task Force (or designee) to develop and publish a periodic Labor Trafficking Response Strategy that:

- establishes aligned training standards for regulatory and frontline agencies;
- outlines multi-agency enforcement coordination protocols; and
- creates a statewide referral framework for labor trafficking survivors, including access to housing, medical care, legal services, and wage recovery.

Require participating agencies to designate a labor trafficking point of contact and align internal policies with the strategy using existing authorities and funding streams.

Recommendations to strengthen: **CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

Add Department of Corrections and Department of Youth Services to the Human Trafficking Task Force

Justice-involved individuals —both adults and youth—are among the most vulnerable to exploitation due to isolation, power imbalances, and limited access to outside support. Further, research has shown that the majority of survivors of human trafficking in the United States were forced to commit crimes as part of their exploitation, a form of labor trafficking called “forced criminality”, and as a result, faced arrest, conviction, and imprisonment for the crimes they were forced to commit. Youth in the juvenile justice system face particularly high risk, as trafficking indicators may be misidentified as delinquent behavior, and opportunities for early intervention are often missed. Currently, Alabama’s anti-trafficking coordination does not formally include either the Department of Corrections or the Department of Youth Services. Bringing both agencies into the Alabama Human Trafficking Task Force would ensure that trafficking prevention, identification, and survivor-centered responses extend across custodial settings, strengthen training for staff working with high-risk populations, and promote consistent treatment of exploited individuals as victims in need of protection and services.

Recommended Next Steps

ACTION

Amend the structure of the Alabama Human Trafficking Task Force to designate the Department of Corrections and the Department of Youth Services as standing members, with participation focused on prevention, staff training, identification, survivor support, and coordination with service providers.

LEAD

Alabama Legislature + Governor’s Office + Alabama’s Human Trafficking Task Force Leadership + Department of Corrections + Department of Youth Services

MODEL(S)

- [Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force](#)
- [Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force](#)

MECHANISM

Designate the Department of Corrections and the Department of Youth Services as permanent members of the Task Force; require trafficking-specific, trauma-informed training for correctional and juvenile justice staff; establish confidential internal screening, reporting, and referral pathways for adults and youth in custody; and require agencies to share anonymized trend data with the Task Force to inform prevention, policy development, and reentry or transition planning.

MINORS-FOCUSED RESPONSE

Strengthen Child Welfare's Role in Alabama's Anti-Trafficking Response

Children involved in Alabama's child welfare and juvenile justice systems face some of the highest risks of sex and labor trafficking in the United States, including Alabama. Strengthening and formalizing child welfare's role within the state's anti-trafficking response - inclusive of juvenile justice, education, or caregivers - will result in earlier identification of exploitation, consistent prevention and education, trauma-informed intervention, and continuity of care across systems serving vulnerable children.

Recommended Next Steps

ACTION

Amend Alabama law to formally integrate child welfare into the state's anti-trafficking response by updating key provisions of Titles 12, 16, 26, and 38, including:

- Title 38 (Public Welfare), including Ala. Code § 38-2-6, to clarify the Department of Human Resources' role in trafficking identification, screening, referral, and coordination with the Alabama Human Trafficking Task Force, and to require trafficking-specific training for child welfare staff, foster parents, and adoptive parents.
- Title 12 (Juvenile Justice), including Ala. Code §§ 12-15-101 et seq., 12-15-117, and 12-15-301, to require trafficking training, screening for forced criminality, and trauma-informed response protocols within juvenile justice and Department of Youth Services operations.
- Title 26 (Child Abuse Reporting), Ala. Code § 26-14-1 et seq., to support standardized screening and referral when trafficking indicators are identified during child abuse or neglect investigations.
- Title 16 (Education), including Ala. Code §§ 16-6F-3 and 16-40-1 et seq., to require age-appropriate education on sexual abuse, human trafficking, familial trafficking, and online grooming across public schools and youth-serving educational settings, including congregate care and juvenile justice facilities.

LEAD

Alabama Legislature + Department of Human Resources + Department of Youth Services + Department of Education + Juvenile Courts + Alabama Human Trafficking Task Force Leadership

MODEL(S)

- Florida - Integrates child welfare and juvenile justice into the state's trafficking response through mandatory screening, education, and coordinated agency responsibilities. [Fla. Stat. §§ 39.524, 409.1678, 1003.42](#).
- Minnesota - [Minnesota "No Wrong Door"](#) framework requires child welfare agencies to identify trafficking risk, coordinate responses, and ensure access to services regardless of system entry point.
- California - Mandates trafficking screening, identification, and trauma-informed responses across child welfare and juvenile justice systems. [Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code §§ 300, 18259](#).

MECHANISM

Require trafficking-specific training for child welfare staff, juvenile justice personnel, and foster and adoptive parents; mandate age-appropriate education for youth across schools, congregate care, and juvenile justice settings; and require use of a standardized, task-force-approved trafficking screening tool for minors in child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Statute should require coordination among agencies, consistent referral pathways, and periodic review by the Alabama Human Trafficking Task Force to ensure statewide consistency and alignment with existing child protection and reporting obligations.

Recommendations to strengthen:

MINORS-FOCUSED RESPONSE

Establish a Dedicated CSEC Investigation Unit

Crimes involving the commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) are complex, covert, and often intersect with child welfare, runaway youth, online exploitation, and organized crime. Creating a dedicated unit focused on CSEC investigations would help Alabama concentrate expertise, improve case coordination, and ensure CSEC crimes are investigated consistently, are victim-centered, and are not competing for attention within broader criminal justice caseloads.

Recommended Next Steps

ACTION

Create a specialized Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Unit within the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency or the Alabama Bureau of Investigation, with authority to investigate CSEC and child trafficking cases statewide and to coordinate with local law enforcement, child welfare, and prosecutors.

LEAD

Alabama Law Enforcement + Alabama Legislature + Alabama Human Trafficking Task Force Leadership

MODEL(S)

- California - [California Department of Social Services](#) runs the CSEC Unit.
- Georgia - [Child Exploitation and Computer Crimes Unit](#)

MECHANISM

Authorize a dedicated CSEC unit with trained investigators; require trauma-informed, child-centered investigative protocols; and formalize referral and coordination pathways with child welfare, corrections, and task force partners to ensure timely investigations and survivor safety and support.

Recommendations to strengthen: **SURVIVOR SUPPORT**

Strengthen Survivor Support for Underserved Communities

Data in Alabama has shown that survivors of human trafficking from underserved communities often face significant barriers to accessing long-term aftercare and reintegrative support, including education, employment, and economic stability. This is especially true for survivors who encounter language barriers, rural isolation, or system involvement. Expanding coordinated survivor services through existing state systems would help ensure that reintegrative pathways exist and are accessible to all survivors, regardless of background or geography.

Recommended Next Steps

ACTION

Establish a coordinated, multi-agency survivor support initiative focused on expanding access to services for underserved communities by integrating trafficking survivor assistance with workforce development, education, and supportive services, including vocational training, tuition or credentialing assistance, and trauma-informed employment pathways.

LEAD

Alabama Department of Labor and Workforce Development + Department of Human Resources + Department of Mental Health + Department of Public Health + the Alabama Human Trafficking Task Force + in partnership with survivor-led service providers and educational institutions.

MODEL(S)

- Washington State – Statewide coordination committee including workforce & re-entry focus. [WA RCW 7.68.801](#)
- Florida - Linking DCF and CareerSource Florida to employment supports. [Fla. Stat. § 409.1754](#)

MECHANISM

Authorize use of existing workforce, education, and social service funding streams to expand survivor services in underserved communities through grants to community-based providers, trauma-informed job training and placement partnerships, and portable education or credentialing assistance. Require participating agencies to coordinate referrals and report aggregate, non-identifying outcomes related to service access, employment, and housing stability.

NOTE: Funding these efforts is always a challenge for communities, but there are practical ways to strengthen and sustain support on the ground. We recommend:

- Ensuring asset forfeiture funds are accessible to local precincts and service providers,
- Directing state-level grant funding down to the jurisdictions actively working these cases, and
- Creating clearer, more accessible pathways for victims to access available funds wherever they are in the state.

Here are some examples of states in which asset forfeiture is utilized.

- [Louisiana](#) - Survivor Special Fund in which funds are divided: 25% to the seizing agency or agencies allocated among the seizing agencies in proportion to their participation in the management of the investigation, seizure, and forfeiture; 25% to the prosecuting agency and 50% to the Survivor Special Fund.
- [North Carolina](#) - North Carolina General Assembly allocated recurring funding to the North Carolina Human Trafficking Commission (“Commission”) in House Bill 259, Session Law 2023-134. Specifically, Section 16.23.(a), appropriates recurring funds to the Commission to develop and implement a grant program to provide funds to eligible organizations providing direct services to victims of human trafficking.
- [California](#) - California has a Human Trafficking Fund, via the California Victim Compensation Board, which has been specifically noted for creating clear pathways for victims to access funds.

SOURCES

Public Chapters (Sessions Laws)

- Act No. 2010-705, 2010 Ala. Laws 1368 (Representatives Jack Williams and Merika Coleman Act).
- Act No. 2012-265, 2012 Ala. Laws 527.
- H.R.J. Res. 270, 2014 Reg. Sess. (Ala. 2014).
- Act No. 2016-282, 2016 Ala. Laws 865 (Human Trafficking Safe Harbor Act).
- Act No. 2018-385, 2018 Ala. Laws 837.
- Act No. 2018-506, 2018 Ala. Laws 1067.
- Act No. 2019-417, 2019 Ala. Laws 1234.
- Act No. 2021-201, 2021 Ala. Laws 457.
- Act No. 2021-267, 2021 Ala. Laws 612.
- Act No. 2022-398, 2022 Ala. Laws 746.
- Act No. 2022-435, 2022 Ala. Laws 801.
- Act No. 2024-87, 2024 Ala. Laws.
- Act No. 2025-368, 2025 Ala. Laws.

Statutes

- Ala. Code §§ 13A-6-150 to -159 (Human Trafficking offenses, defenses, restitution, civil remedies).
- Ala. Code § 13A-6-151 (Definitions; expanded trafficking conduct).
- Ala. Code § 13A-6-152 (Human Trafficking in the First Degree; mandatory life sentence for offenses involving minors).
- Ala. Code § 13A-6-153 (Human Trafficking in the Second Degree).
- Ala. Code § 13A-6-154 (Barred defenses).
- Ala. Code § 13A-6-155 (Asset forfeiture and restitution).
- Ala. Code § 13A-6-157 (Civil cause of action).
- Ala. Code § 13A-6-157.1 (Attorney General civil enforcement authority).
- Ala. Code § 13A-6-159 (Affirmative defense for trafficking victims).
- Ala. Code § 13A-6-170 (Human trafficking hotline posting requirements).
- Ala. Code §§ 13A-6-180 to -184 (Safe Harbor protections for minors).
- Ala. Code § 13A-12-121.1 (Prostitution involving a minor).
- Ala. Code § 13A-12-124 (Elimination of defenses in cases involving minors).
- Ala. Code §§ 15-27-1 to -2 (Expungement relief for trafficking victims).
- Ala. Code § 15-13-3(b)(1)(g) (Non-bailable offenses; human trafficking in the first degree).
- Ala. Code §§ 15-26A-1 to -7 (Video-recorded depositions and closed-circuit testimony).
- Ala. Code § 16-60-117.1 (CDL and driver training human trafficking instruction).
- Ala. Code tit. 34, ch. 43 (Massage Therapy Board licensing and enforcement).

ENGAGE TOGETHER®

Engage Together® Project exists to strengthen community response to end and prevent human trafficking. Learn more at engagetogether.com.

To access and download this report and all supplemental reports and resources for this Project, go to engagetogether.com/alabama.

