STATE OF NEW YORK

9618

IN ASSEMBLY

January 21, 2026

Introduced by M. of A. P. CARROLL -- read once and referred to the Committee on Governmental Operations

AN ACT to amend the executive law, in relation to requisite training instruction for police officers for crimes involving human trafficking; and to amend the transportation law, in relation to requisite training for entities providing public transportation

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. Section 214-d of the executive law, as added by chapter 368 of the laws of 2015, is amended to read as follows:

§ 214-d. Human trafficking awareness. The superintendent, in consultation with the office of temporary and disability assistance and the division of criminal justice services, shall:

[~~(1) develop~~] **1. Develop**, maintain and disseminate to all members of the state police, including new and veteran officers, written policies, procedures and educational materials relating to human trafficking victims, including services available for victims of human trafficking, as referenced in section four hundred eighty-three-bb of the social services law; and

[~~(2) establish~~] **2. Establish** and implement written procedures and policies in the event a member of the division of state police encounters an individual believed to be a victim of human trafficking, which shall include, but not be limited to, the provision of information and/or referral to an appropriate provider of social and legal services to human trafficking victims, in accordance with [~~such~~] section four hundred eighty-three-bb **of the social services law; and**

3. Consult with the municipal police training council regarding the development of police training courses related to the handling, response procedures, investigation, and prosecution of human trafficking cases.

§ 2. Subdivision 8 of section 840 of the executive law, as added by chapter 632 of the laws of 2025 is renumbered subdivision 9 and a new subdivision 10 is added to read as follows:

10. The council shall, in consultation with the superintendent of the state police, develop policies and procedures requiring training and

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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instruction for all police officers with respect to crimes involving human trafficking and regarding the handling of situations involving individuals who appear to be victims of human trafficking. Such policies and procedures shall make provisions for the education and training of new and veteran police officers. Such training and education shall focus on appropriate recognition and response techniques for handling matters involving victims of human trafficking, including, but not be limited to a demonstration of and information regarding known signs and signals that may be used or communicated by victims of human trafficking seeking assistance or may be observed by individuals in public spaces, understanding abuse trauma and psychological issues confronted by such crime victims, common attributes of offenders, fair treatment standards for crime victims pursuant to article twenty-three of this chapter, evidence gathering and preservation issues, interview techniques and information concerning the availability of local services for the victims of such crimes. These courses shall be reviewed at least once every two years and modified from time to time as need may require. All new officers shall receive such training and instruction, as part of the basic curriculum at the state police academy or at municipal police academies, as applicable. Such required training for current officers shall be completed within thirty-six months of the effective date of this subdivision; provided however it shall be completed within twenty-four months of the effective date of this subdivision in a city with a population of one million or more.

§ 3. The transportation law is amended by adding a new section 14-o to read as follows:

§ 14-o. Human trafficking recognition and training program. 1. For purposes of this section, "public transportation authority" shall mean each transportation authority or transit authority subject to the provisions of the public authorities law or the provisions of this chapter, provided that the provisions of this section shall not apply to any authority operated by a bi-state authority.

2. (a) Every public transportation authority shall require all employees of the public transportation authority, and all employees or operators of private entities under contract to a public transportation authority to provide regular route service, who are likely to interact or come into contact with guests or riders to undergo a human trafficking recognition training program to provide training in the recognition of a human trafficking victim as defined in section four hundred eighty-three-aa of the social services law. Such training program shall be established or approved by the division of criminal justice services and the office of temporary and disability assistance in consultation with the New York state interagency task force on human trafficking. The training program may be developed by a federal, state, or non-profit organization, and may be incorporated as part of the public transportation authority's existing training programs or may be provided by organizations or providers identified by the commissioner of the division of criminal justice services or the commissioner of the office of temporary and disability assistance, provided that the training includes all of the requirements of this section. Established or approved training programs may be made available through methods including, but not limited to, in-person instruction, electronic and video communication, or online programs.

(b) The commissioner, at the commissioner's discretion, may waive the training requirements of this section for a private entity under contract to the corporation to provide regular route service if the

private entity requires its employees or operators to complete an equal or greater training course on the handling and response procedures for suspected human trafficking activities.

3.(a) Any human trafficking recognition training program established or approved by the division of criminal justice services and the office of temporary and disability assistance in consultation with the New York state interagency task force on human trafficking as required in this section shall address no less than the following issues:

(i) the nature of human trafficking;

(ii) how human trafficking is defined in law;

(iii) how to identify victims of human trafficking; and

(iv) who to contact, such as the national human trafficking hotline, which connects victims of human trafficking to:

(A) relief and recovery options; and

(B) social and legal services.

(b) The training course shall be reviewed at least once every two years and modified as needed by the commissioner and the approved non-profit course provider, as appropriate.

4. (a) Each public transportation company shall be responsible for ensuring that all required current employees and all employees or operators of private entities under contract to a public transportation authority to provide regular route service complete the training course. Persons employed on the effective date of this section must complete the training within two years of the effective date of this section. Training for employees who commence employment after the effective date of this section must complete the training within six months of the commencement of employment.

(b) If an approved non-profit course provider is involved in providing the training course to new employees who initially commence employment after the effective date of this section, the non-profit course provider shall provide the training course at least once every six months in order for the employees to meet the six-month training deadline.

(c) Each contract entered into after the effective date of this section between a public transportation authority and a private entity to provide regular route service shall include a requirement that operators of the private entity that provides regular route service under such contract shall attend the one-time training course, unless such requirement is waived pursuant to the provisions of subdivision two of this section; provided that the provision of this section shall not apply to any current contract between a public transportation authority and a private entity to provide regular route service that was entered into prior to the effective date of this section.

5. The commissioner of the division of criminal justice services and the commissioner of the office of temporary and disability assistance shall make available a list online of established or approved human trafficking recognition programs for use by public transportation authorities and private entities under contract.

6. Each public transportation authority shall maintain records indicating that each employee required to undergo an established or approved human trafficking recognition training program pursuant to this section has completed such training. Such records shall be kept on file by the public transportation authority for the period during which the employee is employed by the public transportation authority and for one year after such employment ends.

§ 4. This act shall take effect one year after it shall have become a law; provided that the amendments to subdivision 8 of section 840 of the

executive law made by section two of this act shall take effect on the same date and in the same manner as section one of chapter 632 of the laws of 2025 takes effect. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.