

# STATE OF NEW YORK

2369

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

January 22, 2019

Introduced by M. of A. HEVESI -- read once and referred to the Committee on Codes

AN ACT to amend the penal law, in relation to sex trafficking of a vulnerable person

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

1 Section 1. Section 230.34-a of the penal law, as added by chapter 189  
2 of the laws of 2018, is amended to read as follows:

3 § 230.34-a Sex trafficking of a child or vulnerable person.

4 1. A person is guilty of sex trafficking of a child when he or she,  
5 being twenty-one years old or more, intentionally advances or profits  
6 from prostitution of another person and such person is a child less than  
7 eighteen years old. Knowledge by the defendant of the age of such child  
8 is not an element of this offense and it is not a defense to a prose-  
9 cution therefor that the defendant did not know the age of the child or  
10 believed such age to be eighteen or over.

11 2. A person is guilty of sex trafficking of a vulnerable person when  
12 he or she intentionally advances or profits from prostitution of another  
13 person and such person is a vulnerable person, as such term is defined  
14 in this section.

15 3. For purposes of this section:

16 (a) A person "advances prostitution" when, acting other than as a  
17 person in prostitution or as a patron thereof, and with intent to cause  
18 prostitution, he or she directly engages in conduct that facilitates an  
19 act or enterprise of prostitution.

20 (b) A person "profits from prostitution" when, acting other than as a  
21 person in prostitution receiving compensation for personally rendered  
22 prostitution services, and with intent to facilitate prostitution, he or  
23 she accepts or receives money or other property pursuant to an agreement  
24 or understanding with any person whereby he or she participates in the  
25 proceeds of prostitution activity.

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

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1 (c) A person is a "vulnerable person" when such person is mentally  
2 disabled, mentally incapacitated, or physically helpless, as such terms  
3 are defined in section 130.00 of this part.

4 Sex trafficking of a child or vulnerable person is a class B felony.

5 § 2. The penal law is amended by adding a new section 130.97 to read  
6 as follows:

7 § 130.97 Predatory sex trafficking.

8 A person is guilty of predatory sex trafficking when, being eighteen  
9 years old or more, he or she commits the crime of sex trafficking of a  
10 child or vulnerable person.

11 Predatory sex trafficking is a class A-II felony.

12 § 3. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall  
13 have become a law.