STATE OF NEW YORK

1411

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 11, 2021

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:

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

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

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

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

3. For purposes of this section:

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

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

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

LBD01460-01-1

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

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

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

§ 130.97 Predatory sex trafficking.

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

Predatory sex trafficking is a class A-II felony.

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