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MANDATE REGISTRATION OF ALL PRIVATELY OWNED, “WHITE LABEL” ATMS.

White-label ATMs (WATMs) can be owned and operated by anyone and purchased on the Internet from sites such as Craigslist. Registering WATMs will:

- Prioritize investigations;
- Enable law enforcement to immediately determine persons of interest;
- Reduce the need for victim testimony;
- Facilitate the investigation of financial crimes, and;
- Permit the discovery of larger criminal networks involved in human trafficking at IMBs.

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ALLOW LOCAL GOVERNMENT ATTORNEYS TO COLLECT PENALTY FEES IN ACTIONS BROUGHT AGAINST ILLICIT MESSAGE BUSINESSES (IMBS) UNDER CHAPTER 455.

By ensuring that local attorneys can recoup their costs through penalty fees, we can reduce the number of IMBs, enable more legal actions against IMBs at the local level, and potentially recoup more of their illegally-obtained and untaxed profits.

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TRAFFICKERS WHO HAVE ALSO STRANGLING THEIR VICTIMS SHOULD FACE AN ENHANCED PENALTY, FROM A SECOND DEGREE TO A FIRST DEGREE FELONY.

Domestic violence that involves strangling is more likely to end in homicide of the victim. A first degree felony will allow the most dangerous traffickers to be removed from the general population for a greater length of time, overall increasing public safety.

4

ALLOW PROSECUTORS TO TRY TRAFFICKERS THAT HAVE VICTIMIZED DISABLED ADULTS WITHOUT REQUIRING THAT THEY PROVE THE ELEMENTS OF FORCE, FRAUD, OR COERCION.

Adults suffering from intellectual and developmental disabilities are specifically targeted by traffickers, due to their vulnerability. Yet, prosecutors and law enforcement often struggle to bring their traffickers to justice. This policy change would protect adults with disabilities who are especially vulnerable to trafficking, especially those with disabilities that affect their ability to assess safety or care for themselves without assistance.

5

REQUIRE TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANIES TO PROVIDE TRAINING AND REPORTING INFORMATION TO THEIR DRIVERS.

Transportation Network Company drivers are (likely unwittingly) transporting human trafficking victims in the course of their trafficking. Law enforcement has gathered evidence of human trafficking victims (including child victims) being transported by rideshare app. TNC drivers will be able to better recognize the signs of human trafficking and serve as first reporters. These reports help law enforcement to identify victims and intervene earlier.



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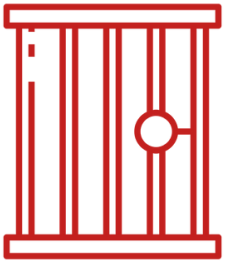
White-label ATMs (WATMs) can be owned and operated by anyone and purchased on the Internet from sites such as Craigslist. While WATMs are a valuable part of our financial system, particularly in rural areas where there are fewer brick-and-mortar banks, WATMs are also inextricably linked to financial crimes and human trafficking. Criminals exploit our state’s lack of ATM regulation to transfer illicit profits and cater to buyers. For example, the over 900 illicit massage businesses in Texas (IMBs) are predominately cash-only businesses. No sex buyer wants a massage parlor’s name on his credit card statement. Unlicensed strip clubs and illegal gaming rooms are other common users of WATMs. Registering WATMs will:

- Prioritize investigations;
- Enable law enforcement to immediately determine persons of interest;
- Reduce the need for victim testimony;
- Facilitate the investigation of financial crimes, and;
- Permit the discovery of larger criminal networks involved in human trafficking at IMBs.



ALLOW LOCAL GOVERNMENT ATTORNEYS TO COLLECT PENALTY FEES IN ACTIONS BROUGHT AGAINST ILLICIT MASSAGE BUSINESSES (IMBS) UNDER CHAPTER 455.

IMBs are fronts for prostitution and sex trafficking. Because they are often cash-only businesses, they are also magnets for burglary and armed robbery. Over 35,000 Texas school children attend a school that is within 1000 feet of an IMB and even conservative estimates show over 700 of these locations statewide. By ensuring that local attorneys can recoup their costs through penalty fees, we can reduce the number of IMBs, enable more legal actions against IMBs at the local level, and potentially recoup more of their illegally-obtained and untaxed profits.



TRAFFICKERS WHO HAVE ALSO STRANGLED THEIR VICTIMS SHOULD FACE AN ENHANCED PENALTY, FROM A SECOND DEGREE TO A FIRST DEGREE FELONY.

Traffickers who also strangle their victims are particularly dangerous, and therefore their penalty should be enhanced to a first degree felony. Trafficking Victims who are strangled by their traffickers are more likely to be in a personal/romantic relationship with their trafficker, and therefore a victim of interpersonal/domestic violence. Domestic violence that involves strangling is more likely to end in homicide of the victim. A first degree felony will allow the most dangerous traffickers to be removed from the general population for a greater length of time, overall increasing public safety.

ALLOW PROSECUTORS TO TRY TRAFFICKERS THAT HAVE VICTIMIZED DISABLED ADULTS WITHOUT REQUIRING THAT THEY PROVE THE ELEMENTS OF FORCE, FRAUD, OR COERCION.

Adults suffering from intellectual and developmental disabilities are specifically targeted by traffickers, due to their vulnerability. Yet, prosecutors and law enforcement often struggle to bring their traffickers to justice. Currently, in investigations and trials of traffickers who victimized adult disabled survivors of human trafficking, prosecutors must prove that the defendant used force, fraud, or coercion to cause their victim to participate in prohibited conduct such as prostitution. Notably, the Texas human trafficking statute does not require proof of force fraud or coercion for those under 18; it is enough that the trafficker caused a minor to engage in the prohibited conduct.

This policy change would protect adults with disabilities who are especially vulnerable to trafficking, especially those with disabilities that affect their ability to assess safety or care for themselves without assistance. Although protections exist for certain disabled adults who are sexually assaulted or abused, those protections do not currently extend to victims of sex trafficking.





REQUIRE TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANIES TO PROVIDE TRAINING AND REPORTING INFORMATION TO THEIR DRIVERS.

Transportation Network Company drivers are (likely unwittingly) transporting human trafficking victims in the course of their trafficking. Law enforcement has gathered evidence of human trafficking victims (including child victims) being transported by rideshare app. Drivers could serve as first reporters and work with PDs to provide basic intelligence/information, but they may not recognize the signs of trafficking. TNC drivers will be able to better recognize the signs of human trafficking and serve as first reporters. These reports help law enforcement to identify victims and intervene earlier.