

SUBJECT: Requiring tattoo studios to complete human trafficking prevention training

COMMITTEE: Public Health — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 9 ayes — Klick, Campos, Collier, Jetton, J. Jones, Oliverson, Price,
Smith, Tinderholt

0 nays

2 absent — A. Johnson, V. Jones

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: James Parnell, Dallas Police Association; Ray Hunt, HPOU; Dallas Reed, Texas Municipal Police Association; Michelle Evans; Eve Margolis; Thomas Parkinson)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Timothy Stevenson, DSHS; Amy Meredith, Office of the Attorney General)

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that the state should provide resources to help tattoo artists and body piercers identify victims of trafficking and report suspected trafficking, as human traffickers sometimes coerce their victims into getting identifying tattoos.

DIGEST: HB 3501 would require each employee of a tattoo studio or body piercing studio to complete an approved training course on identifying and assisting victims of human trafficking. The executive commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) would be required to approve training courses on human trafficking prevention, including at least one course that was available without charge. The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) would be required to post the list of approved training courses on the department's website.

A licensed tattoo studio or body piercing studio would be required to display in an area of the studio regularly accessible to the studio's

employees a poster with information on recognizing potential victims of human trafficking and methods for assisting such victims. DSHS would be required to develop and post the poster on its website.

As soon as practicable after the bill's effective date, the executive commissioner of HHSC would be required to approve human trafficking prevention and training courses and adopt rules necessary to implement the bill.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023. An employee of a tattoo studio or body piercing studio would not be required to complete a training course or display the specified poster before January 1, 2024.