

By: Thompson of Harris

H.B. No. 2511

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of the human trafficking prevention business partnership.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 405, Government Code, is amended by adding new Subchapter D, Section 405.041, to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER D. HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

Sec. 405.041. HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION BUSINESS

PARTNERSHIP. (a) In this section, "partnership" means the human trafficking prevention business partnership.

(b) The office of the secretary of state by rule shall establish and implement a program designated as the human trafficking prevention business partnership to engage participating corporations and other private entities in voluntary efforts to prevent and combat human trafficking.

(c) The office of the secretary of state shall present a certificate of recognition to a participating corporation or private entity to recognize the corporation's or entity's contributions to the efforts of federal, state, and local officials engaged in combatting human trafficking and prosecuting human trafficking crimes.

(d) A corporation or other private entity that participates in the partnership shall:

(1) adopt a zero tolerance policy toward human

1 trafficking;

2 (2) take measures to ensure that the corporation's or
3 entity's employees comply with the policy adopted under Subdivision
4 (1);

5 (3) participate in public awareness and education
6 campaigns;

7 (4) enhance awareness of and encourage participation
8 in the partnership; and

9 (5) share with the office of the secretary of state
10 best practices that are effective in combatting human trafficking.

11 (e) The office of the secretary of state shall work
12 collaboratively with other state agencies to promote the
13 partnership.

14 (f) The office of the secretary of state may use private and
15 philanthropic resources to support the work of the partnership.

16 SECTION 2. Not later than December 1, 2015, the office of
17 the secretary of state shall establish the program designated as
18 the human trafficking prevention business partnership as required
19 under Section 405.041, Government Code, as added by this Act.

20 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
21 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
22 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
23 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
24 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.