

# Fiscal Note

*Fiscal Services Division*



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**HF 2355** – Human Trafficking Office (LSB5128HV)

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Fiscal Note Version – New

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## **Description**

**House File 2355** establishes an office within the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to coordinate and oversee efforts to combat the crime of human trafficking within the state of Iowa. Duties of the office include:

- Be the point of contact for anti-human trafficking activity within the state of Iowa.
- Consult and work with other agencies and organizations having expertise in dealing with the crime of human trafficking.
- Develop a strategy to collect and maintain criminal history data on incidents related to human trafficking.
- Develop a strategy for sharing victim and offender data among governmental agencies.
- Apply for and assist other governmental agencies to apply for grants to combat human trafficking.
- Research and recommend training to identify and respond to human trafficking victims.
- Report by November 1, 2017, and annually thereafter, to the General Assembly regarding the office's activities related to combatting human trafficking, and the identified occurrences of human trafficking within the state.

## **Background**

Human trafficking is the illegal trade of people, including sexual exploitation and labor trafficking. It is estimated that human trafficking is second only to drug trafficking as the most profitable international crime. Victims enter into human trafficking through a variety of actions, including force, fraud, and coercion.

During the 2015 Legislative Session, the ending balance of the **Mortgage Servicing Settlement Fund** was transferred to the Office of the Attorney General (AG) to establish the **Human Trafficking Enforcement Fund**.<sup>1</sup> That money was to be used by the Crime Victim Assistance Division (CVAD) of the AG to develop and conduct outreach, public awareness, and training programs related to human trafficking for certain populations. As of February 2016, there is approximately \$603,000 in the Human Trafficking Enforcement Fund, and a plan is being developed for use of the funds. The AG was also allowed in **SF 510** to use up to \$300,000 per year from the **Victim Compensation Fund** to provide training to professionals concerning victim services, homicide, domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, harassment, and human trafficking. **House File 2355** will direct the coordination of investigative and victim advocate training, investigative response, a criminal intelligence collection strategy, the coordination of information sharing among law enforcement, governmental and nongovernmental agencies, and apply for and assist agencies when applying for grants associated with combatting Human Trafficking in Iowa.

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<sup>1</sup> **SF 510** (Standing Appropriations Act)

### **Assumptions**

The DPS estimates a cost of \$483,000 for FY 2017 to implement this bill. That estimate includes:

- 4.0 FTE positions, including a special agent in charge, two special agent 2 positions, and one criminal intelligence analyst senior. The total salary and benefit cost for these positions is \$345,000. These costs are based on entry-level figures, but the actual costs could be higher if the positions are filled by current employees.
- Support of \$138,000 including vehicles, travel, weapons, computers, etc. during FY 2017. This cost is expected to decrease to \$30,000 in FY 2018.

### **Fiscal Impact**

The cost to implement this bill is \$483,000 in FY 2017 and \$375,000 in FY 2018 and subsequent years. If a State General Fund appropriation is not provided, some other funding source will need to be identified. Currently, the [Human Trafficking Enforcement Fund](#) can only be used by the CVAD of the AG's office.

### **Sources**

Iowa Department of Public Safety  
Iowa Department of Justice, Attorney General's Office  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
U.S. Department of Justice

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

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The fiscal note for this bill was prepared pursuant to [Joint Rule 17](#) and the Iowa Code. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the LSA upon request.

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