

**Senate File 2371 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 2371  
BY COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

(SUCCESSOR TO SF 2254)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to criminal penalties for individuals engaged  
2 in human trafficking of victims who are under the age of  
3 eighteen.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 710A.2, Code 2018, is amended to read as  
2 follows:

3 **710A.2 Human trafficking.**

4 1. A person who knowingly engages in human trafficking is  
5 guilty of a class "D" felony, except that if the victim is  
6 under the age of eighteen, the person is guilty of a class "C"  
7 "B" felony.

8 2. A person who knowingly engages in human trafficking by  
9 causing or threatening to cause serious physical injury to  
10 another person is guilty of a class "C" felony, except that if  
11 the victim is under the age of eighteen, the person is guilty  
12 of a class "B" felony.

13 3. A person who knowingly engages in human trafficking by  
14 physically restraining or threatening to physically restrain  
15 another person is guilty of a class "D" felony, except that if  
16 the victim is under the age of eighteen, the person is guilty  
17 of a class "C" "B" felony.

18 4. A person who knowingly engages in human trafficking by  
19 soliciting services or benefiting from the services of a victim  
20 is guilty of a class "D" felony, except that if the victim is  
21 under the age of eighteen, the person is guilty of a class "C"  
22 "B" felony.

23 5. A person who knowingly engages in human trafficking by  
24 abusing or threatening to abuse the law or legal process is  
25 guilty of a class "D" felony, except that if the victim is  
26 under the age of eighteen, the person is guilty of a class "C"  
27 "B" felony.

28 6. A person who knowingly engages in human trafficking  
29 by knowingly destroying, concealing, removing, confiscating,  
30 or possessing any actual or purported passport or other  
31 immigration document, or any other actual or purported  
32 government identification document of a victim is guilty of a  
33 class "D" felony, except that if that other person is under  
34 the age of eighteen, the person is guilty of a class "C" "B"  
35 felony.

1 7. A person who benefits financially or by receiving  
2 anything of value from knowing participation in human  
3 trafficking is guilty of a class "D" felony, except that if the  
4 victim is under the age of eighteen, the person is guilty of a  
5 class "C" "B" felony.

6 8. A person's ignorance of the age of the victim or a belief  
7 that the victim was older is not a defense to a violation of  
8 this section.

9 EXPLANATION

10 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
11 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

12 This bill relates to criminal penalties for individuals  
13 engaged in human trafficking of victims who are under the age  
14 of 18.

15 The bill increases the criminal penalty from a class "C"  
16 felony to a class "B" felony for an individual who knowingly  
17 engages in human trafficking of a victim under the age of 18.  
18 The penalty is also increased from a class "C" felony to a  
19 class "B" felony if the victim is under the age of 18 and an  
20 individual physically restrains or threatens to physically  
21 restrain another person, solicits services or benefits from  
22 the services of the victim, abuses or threatens to abuse the  
23 law or legal process, takes a passport or other immigration  
24 document from a victim, or the individual benefits financially  
25 or by receiving anything of value from participating in human  
26 trafficking.

27 It remains a class "B" felony for an individual to knowingly  
28 engage in human trafficking of a victim under the age of 18 by  
29 causing, or threatening to cause, serious physical injury to  
30 another person.

31 A class "C" felony is punishable by confinement for no more  
32 than 10 years and a fine of at least \$1,000 but not more than  
33 \$10,000. A class "B" felony is punishable by confinement for  
34 no more than 25 years.