

**REVENUE:** No revenue impact

**FISCAL:** Fiscal statement issued

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<b>Action:</b>	Do Pass and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means
<b>Vote:</b>	9 - 0 - 0
<b>Yeas:</b>	Barton, Cameron, Garrett, Hicks, Krieger, Olson, Tomei, Williamson, Barker
<b>Nays:</b>	0
<b>Exc.:</b>	0
<b>Prepared By:</b>	Mike Schmidt, Counsel
<b>Meeting Dates:</b>	3/25, 4/18

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**WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:** Creates crime of patronizing a trafficked child where a person offers or agrees to engage in a commercial sex act with a minor, or with a law enforcement officer posing as a minor. The prior is punishable as a Class B felony – level nine on crime seriousness scale, the latter would be a Class C felony – level seven on crime seriousness scale. Makes prior convictions for prostitution count as one half of person crimes when calculating criminal history score. Modifies crime of trafficking in persons by creating different felony classifications for benefiting financially from trafficking and knowing that another person will be subjected to involuntary servitude – Class B felony; and knowing that a person will be coerced into commercial sex acts by force or fraud and disregarding the fact that trafficked person is a minor – Class A felony. Includes these crimes under the “rape shield” laws for evidentiary purposes. Allows application by prosecuting attorney for use of technology to intercept wire, oral, or electronic communication in the investigation of these crimes. Allows victims of these crimes to apply to the court for restitution awards, and to the criminal victims’ compensation fund for covering of certain related expenses. Includes these crimes under definition of crimes covered by racketeering statute. Includes these crimes in definition of sex crimes, making these offenses requiring registration. Adds these crimes to definition of sexual exploitation. Declares emergency, in effect upon passage.

**ISSUES DISCUSSED:**

- Children are not for sale, and they are not criminals
- Some children are trafficked as young as age 11

**EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:** No amendment.

**BACKGROUND:** Minor victims of trafficking crimes need greater protection. The various changes proposed in House Bill 2019 will strengthen the prosecutor’s ability to investigate and prosecute these crimes. It will create greater punishment for those engaged in the trafficking of other human beings, especially minors.