

Union Calendar No.

117TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 7566

[Report No. 117-]

To amend title 18, United States Code, to increase the punishment for human trafficking in a school zone, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 25, 2022

Ms. JACKSON LEE (for herself, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. MCCAUL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JULY --, 2022

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on April 25, 2022]

A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to increase the punishment for human trafficking in a school zone, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “No Trafficking Zones*
5 *Act” or the “NTZ Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 *Congress finds as follows:*

8 (1) *Child sex trafficking can have devastating*
9 *immediate and long-term consequences, including*
10 *health impacts, psychological and physical trauma,*
11 *and even death.*

12 (2) *While any child can be targeted by a traf-*
13 *ficker, research, data, survivors’ lived experiences, and*
14 *expertise have revealed that traffickers often target*
15 *vulnerable youth who lack strong support networks,*
16 *supervision, care, or basic necessities, have low self-es-*
17 *teem, have experienced violence in the past, are expe-*
18 *riencing homelessness, are experiencing academic dif-*
19 *ficulties, or are marginalized by society, and lure*
20 *them into forced labor and prostitution and other*
21 *forms of sexual exploitation. Traffickers are masters*
22 *of manipulation and prey upon vulnerabilities using*
23 *psychological pressure, intimidation, and drugs to*
24 *control and sexually exploit the child for their benefit.*

1 (3) *The National Center for Missing and Ex-*
2 *ploited Children (NCMEC) has received reports of*
3 *child sex trafficking in all 50 States, the District of*
4 *Columbia, and Puerto Rico. These reports include in-*
5 *cidents occurring in every type of community, includ-*
6 *ing suburban, rural, urban, and Tribal lands. In*
7 *2021, NCMEC received more than 17,200 reports of*
8 *possible child sex trafficking.*

9 (4) *Of 22,326 trafficking victims and survivors*
10 *identified through contacts with the National Human*
11 *Trafficking Hotline in 2019, at least 5,359 were*
12 *under age 18.*

13 (5) *Many underage victims of sex trafficking are*
14 *students in the United States school system. No com-*
15 *munity, school, socioeconomic group, or student demo-*
16 *graphic is immune.*

17 (6) *While the internet and social media make up*
18 *the majority of first encounters, traffickers regularly*
19 *find young people in shopping malls, through friends,*
20 *at bus stops, and at schools. Specifically, traffickers*
21 *systematically target vulnerable children and youth*
22 *by frequenting locations where young people con-*
23 *gregate, including schools. They also use peers or*
24 *classmates, who befriend the target and slowly groom*

1 *them for the trafficker by bringing the young person*
2 *along to parties and other activities.*

3 *(7) A 2018 survey reported that 55 percent of*
4 *young sex trafficking survivors in Texas were traf-*
5 *ficked while at school or school activities and 60 per-*
6 *cent of trafficked adults say they were first groomed*
7 *and solicited for trafficking on school campuses.*

8 *(8) Schools can and should be safe havens for*
9 *students. Schools are best positioned to identify and*
10 *report suspected trafficking and connect affected stu-*
11 *dents to critical services. Students are more likely to*
12 *report instances of sex trafficking, attempted sex traf-*
13 *ficking, or grooming for the purposes of sex trafficking*
14 *where they feel most safe from harm and threats.*

15 **SEC. 3. INCREASED PUNISHMENT FOR HUMAN TRAF-**
16 **FICKING IN SCHOOL ZONES.**

17 *Section 1591 of title 18, United States Code, is amend-*
18 *ed—*

19 *(1) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection*
20 *(f); and*

21 *(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-*
22 *lowing:*

23 *“(e)(1) Whoever violates subsection (a) in a school*
24 *zone, or on, or within 1,000 feet of, a premises on which*
25 *a school-sponsored activity is taking place, or on, or within*

1 1,000 feet of a premises owned by an institution of higher
2 education, shall, in addition to the punishment otherwise
3 provided under this section, be imprisoned for not more
4 than 5 years.

5 “(2) In this subsection:

6 “(A) The term ‘school zone’ has the meaning
7 given such term in section 921.

8 “(B) The term ‘school-sponsored activity’ means
9 any activity that is produced, financed, arranged, su-
10 pervised, or coordinated by a school or a State edu-
11 cational agency or local educational agency or is
12 under the jurisdiction of a State educational agency
13 or local educational agency.

14 “(C) The terms ‘State educational agency’ and
15 ‘local educational agency’ have the meanings given
16 those terms under section 8101 of the *Elementary and*
17 *Secondary Education Act of 1965*.

18 “(D) The term ‘institution of higher education’
19 has the meaning given such term in section 101 of the
20 *Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)*.”.

21 **SEC. 4. INCREASED PUNISHMENT FOR COERCION AND EN-**
22 **TICEMENT IN SCHOOL ZONES.**

23 *Section 2422 of title 18, United States Code, is amend-*
24 *ed—*

1 (1) *in subsection (b), by striking “individual*
2 *who has not attained the age of 18 years” and insert-*
3 *ing “minor”; and*

4 (2) *by adding at the end the following:*

5 *“(c)(1) Whoever violates subsection (a) or (b) knowing,*
6 *or having reasonable cause to believe, that the violation is*
7 *committed against a minor who is enrolled in school and*
8 *is, at the time of the violation, in a school zone or on, or*
9 *within 1,000 feet of, a premises on which a school-sponsored*
10 *activity is taking place, or against a person who is enrolled*
11 *in an institution of higher education and is, at the time*
12 *of the violation on or within 1,000 feet of a premises owned*
13 *by the institution of higher education, shall, in addition*
14 *to the punishment otherwise provided under this section,*
15 *be imprisoned for not more than 5 years.*

16 *“(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply in a case in which*
17 *a minor’s presence on, or within 1,000 feet of, the premises*
18 *on which a school-sponsored activity is taking place is not*
19 *related to such school-sponsored activity, or the person’s*
20 *presence on or within 1,000 feet of the premises owned by*
21 *the institution of higher education is not related to their*
22 *enrollment at such institution.*

23 *“(d) In this section:*

24 *“(1) The term ‘minor’ means an individual who*
25 *has not attained 18 years of age.*

1 “(2) *The term ‘school’ means a public, parochial,*
2 *or private school that provides elementary or sec-*
3 *ondary education.*

4 “(3) *The term ‘school zone’ has the meaning*
5 *given such term in section 921.*

6 “(4) *The term ‘school-sponsored activity’ means*
7 *any activity that is produced, financed, arranged, su-*
8 *pervised, or coordinated by a school or a State edu-*
9 *cational agency or local educational agency or is*
10 *under the jurisdiction of a State educational agency*
11 *or local educational agency.*

12 “(5) *The terms ‘State educational agency’ and*
13 *‘local educational agency’ have the meanings given*
14 *those terms under section 8101 of the Elementary and*
15 *Secondary Education Act of 1965.*

16 “(6) *The term ‘institution of higher education’*
17 *has the meaning given such term in section 101 of the*
18 *Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).”.*