

1 SENATE BILL NO. 1292

2 AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

3 (Proposed by the House Committee for Courts of Justice

4 on _____)

5 (Patron Prior to Substitute--Senator Deeds)

6 A BILL to require the Department of Criminal Justice Services to administer a two-year pilot program to
7 provide a safe harbor for sex trafficked youth.

8 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

9 1. § 1. As used in this act, unless the context requires a different meaning:

10 "Department" means the Department of Criminal Justice Services.

11 "Pilot agency" means the lead agency in the locality chosen by the Department to conduct the pilot
12 program required by § 2 of this act.

13 § 2. A. The Department, in consultation with the Virginia State Crime Commission, shall identify
14 a suitable locality to administer a two-year Demand Reduction and Safe Harbor for Domestic Minor Sex
15 Trafficked Youth pilot program beginning July 1, 2023, and ending July 1, 2025. Such program shall
16 consist of the following elements:

17 1. The pilot agency shall focus on (i) implementing proactive reverse sting operations that target
18 buyers of sex services, with priority given to cases involving sex trafficked youth; (ii) utilizing a
19 multidisciplinary response team to coordinate assessment and treatment for victims of sex trafficking; and
20 (iii) designing an alternative to an arrest protocol that includes a 48–72 hour holding mechanism for youth
21 either in partnership with a local department of social services, a local department of child protective
22 services, or a local hospital or through court services. The stated goal of the pilot program shall be to
23 reduce the arrest of sex trafficking victims, reduce demand for commercial sex exploitation by focusing
24 on buyers, and establish high-quality education, alternative employment opportunities, and life skills for
25 victims;

