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 SubstituteSenator 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;

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26	2. The pilot agency shall report by July 1, 2024, to the Department all state and local laws,
27	ordinances, and regulations initially identified for elimination, amendment, or streamlining. The pilot
28	agency shall identify any law, ordinance, or regulation proposed for elimination or modification that
29	requires a change in state or local law. If the pilot agency is unable to reach this goal, it shall provide a
30	separate report to the Department stating the reasons for not meeting the goal.
31	B. The Department, in consultation with the Virginia State Crime Commission, shall report
32	annually to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the Attorney General no later than October 1, 2024,
33	and October 1, 2025, on the progress of the pilot program established pursuant to this act.
34	C. The location of the pilot program shall remain confidential until conclusion of the program.
35	Any reference to location shall be anonymized in published documents.
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