

**SUBJECT:** Requiring certain human traffickers to register as sex offenders

**COMMITTEE:** Criminal Jurisprudence — committee substitute recommended

**VOTE:** 7 ayes — Moody, Hunter, Canales, Gervin-Hawkins, Hefner, Lang, Wilson  
0 nays

**WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Frank Dixon, Austin Police Department; Jason Sabo, Children at Risk; Arianna Smith, Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas (CLEAT); Rene Lara, Texas AFL-CIO; Mike Gomez, Texas Municipal Police Association; Thornton Medley, United Steelworkers District Council 13-1; Thomas Parkinson)  
  
Against — None  
  
On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Melissa Holman, Office of the Attorney General)

**BACKGROUND:** Code of Criminal Procedure, art. 62 requires individuals convicted of certain sex offenses to register as sex offenders. Penal Code, sec. 20A.03 creates the offense of continuous trafficking of persons.

**DIGEST:** CSHB 491 would add continuous human trafficking involving the sexual exploitation of children or prostitution to the list of offenses that require an individual convicted of the offense to register for life as a sex offender.  
  
The bill would take effect September 1, 2017, and would apply only to offenses committed on or after that date.

**SUPPORTERS SAY:** CSHB 491 would ensure that individuals convicted of continuous human sex trafficking were required to register as sex offenders. A person who commits a single act of sex trafficking already is required to register, and this bill would apply the same principle to an offender convicted of committing two or more acts of sex trafficking during a period of 30 days

or more. The bill would correct an oversight in existing law, as the consequences for serial trafficking should be greater, not lower, than for a single offense.

OPPONENTS  
SAY:

No apparent opposition.

NOTES:

CSHB 491 differs from the filed version by specifying that someone convicted under Penal Code, sec. 20A.03 for conduct partly or wholly involving sexual exploitation of a child or prostitution would be required to register as a sex offender.

A companion bill, SB 1433 by Uresti, was referred to the Senate Criminal Justice Committee on March 20.