

- SUBJECT:** Defining coercion for the purposes of human trafficking offenses
- COMMITTEE:** Criminal Jurisprudence — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — Moody, Hunter, Canales, Gervin-Hawkins, Hefner, Lang, Wilson
0 nays
- WITNESSES:** For — Brooke Grona-Robb; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Michael Boulette, Archdiocese of San Antonio; Kathryn Freeman, Christian Life Commission; Robert Coerver, Diocese of Lubbock; Joseph Strickland, Diocese of Tyler; Katija Gruene, Green Party of Texas; Jessica Anderson, Houston Police Department; James Jones, San Antonio Police Department; Rene Lara, Texas AFL-CIO; Noel Johnson, Texas Municipal Police Association; Thomas Parkinson)

Against — None

On — Floyd Goodwin, Texas Department of Public Safety; Melissa Holman, Texas Office of the Attorney General
- BACKGROUND:** Penal Code, sec. 20A.02(a)(3) makes it an offense to knowingly traffic another person and, through force, fraud, or coercion, cause the trafficked person to engage in prostitution, promotion of prostitution, aggravated promotion of prostitution, or compelling prostitution.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 2529 would define coercion to include the following actions:
- threatening to or actually destroying, concealing, confiscating, or withholding the trafficked person's actual or purported government record or identifying documents;
 - receiving any form of support, financial or otherwise, from proceeds of an activity described in Penal Code, sec. 20A.02(a)(3);
 - or controlling the proceeds of an activity described in Penal Code, sec. 20A.02(a)(3).

The bill would take effect September 1, 2017, and would apply only to an offense committed on or after that date.