



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1324

H.P. 976

House of Representatives, March 30, 2021

**Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services
To Conduct an Assessment of Human Trafficking in the State**

Reference to the Committee on Judiciary suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative ROBERTS of South Berwick.
Cosponsored by Representatives: ANDREWS of Paris, CLOUTIER of Lewiston, MEYER of
Eliot, RECKITT of South Portland, STOVER of Boothbay, Senator: BREEN of Cumberland.

1 **Sec. 1. Department of Health and Human Services to study information**
2 **relating to human trafficking. Resolved:** That the Department of Health and Human
3 Services shall research and study data regarding sex trafficking of minors and adults in the
4 State and create a human trafficking needs assessment patterned on the human trafficking
5 needs assessment produced in 2015 by Hornby Zeller Associates, Inc. for the Maine
6 Coalition Against Sexual Assault. The department shall conduct the study and draft the
7 assessment with the assistance of law enforcement agencies, judicial resources and
8 nonprofit and other organizations with an interest in preventing sex trafficking. The
9 department may use its own funding or seek other funding to carry out the purposes of this
10 resolve.

11 **Sec. 2. Information to be studied. Resolved:** That, in developing the assessment
12 under section 1, the Department of Health and Human Services shall include the following
13 information in its research and study:

- 14 1. A profile of victims of sex trafficking, including:
 - 15 A. Race;
 - 16 B. Gender;
 - 17 C. Age range;
 - 18 D. Rural or urban living situation;
 - 19 E. History of sexual abuse or domestic violence;
 - 20 F. Absence of a supportive caregiver; and
 - 21 G. Drug use;
- 22 2. Data on sex trafficking in the State, including:
 - 23 A. The prevalence of sex trafficking and number of cases annually;
 - 24 B. The prevalence of labor trafficking;
 - 25 C. The percentage of law enforcement officers who have been involved in a sex
26 trafficking case in the previous year;
 - 27 D. The percentage of law enforcement officers who are not familiar with an
28 organization in the State addressing human trafficking; and
 - 29 E. The percentage of law enforcement officers who believe that the officers' respective
30 departments are prepared to address sex trafficking cases involving minors;
- 31 3. Data on the reentry of victims and prevention of sex trafficking, including:
 - 32 A. The services that are being received and by whom;
 - 33 B. The percentage of victims and survivors receiving services;
 - 34 C. The prevalence of family reunification;
 - 35 D. The rate of homelessness;
 - 36 E. Access to health insurance and health care; and
 - 37 F. The rate of incarceration of traffickers and victims; and
- 38 4. Other benchmarks that the department determines necessary.

