

FIGHT FOR US

TX 88th Legislative Watch

LEGEND: **ENGAGE TX SMART ARMY** **HAAT Member Support** **No In Person** **May Attend**

BILL	STATUS
SB 417	Referred to Committee
Relating to electronic device filters for certain explicit material; creating a criminal offense; providing a civil penalty.	
SB 466 (Bettencourt)/ House Bill 279 (Jetton)	Referred to Committee
Adults suffering from intellectual and developmental disabilities are specifically targeted by traffickers, due to their vulnerability. Yet, prosecutors and law enforcement often struggle to bring their traffickers to justice. This policy change would protect adults with disabilities who are especially vulnerable to trafficking, especially those with disabilities that affect their ability to assess safety or care for themselves without assistance.	
HB 327 (Thompson)	Referred to Committee
Amends the definition of duress to be force of threat of force that “a reasonable person in the situation of the defendant” would be incapable of resisting. This change in definition would be especially impactful for human trafficking survivors who are often pressured under duress to commit illicit acts by their traffickers. The policy change would allow trafficking victims to better plead duress as an affirmative defense to charges arising out of their trafficking.	
HB 1004 (Shaheen)	Referred to Committee
Changes the definition of trafficking of persons to provide additional protections to disabled individuals who are victimized by traffickers.	
HB 1136 (Jetton)	Referred to Committee
Requires lifetime sex offender registration for those who commit the offense of compelling prostitution.	
SB 129 (Springer)	Referred to Committee
Restructures the offense of child pornography to provide for higher sentencing for the amount of child pornography in the possession of a perpetrator and adds enhancements for offenders who receive state funds for the care of children. .	
SB 337 (Zaffirini)/HB350 (Thompson)	Referred to Committee
White-label ATMs (WATMs) can be owned and operated by anyone and purchased on the Internet. Registering certain WATMs will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Prioritize investigations; · Enable law enforcement to immediately determine persons of interest; · Reduce the need for victim testimony; · Facilitate the investigation of financial crimes, and; · Permit the discovery of larger criminal networks involved in human trafficking at IMBs. 	
HB 1059 (Thierry)	Referred to Committee
Prohibits children from referred to juvenile courts for prostitution. Children cannot consent to prostitution—it is by legal definition sexual exploitation. Therefore, children should not be charged with prostitution and further victimized.	
HB 444 (Thompson)	Referred to Committee
By ensuring that local attorneys can recoup their costs through penalty fees, we can reduce the number of IMBs, enable more legal actions against IMBs at the local level, and potentially recoup more of their illegally-obtained and untaxed profits.	
Sarahs Law (Meyer)	Create BILL
Practice Management Solution for DFPS	