

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SPECIAL SESSION-2025

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Legislative Document

No. 1695

H.P. 1130

House of Representatives, April 17, 2025

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### **An Act to Provide Law Enforcement Agencies with an Anti-sex-trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation Protocol**

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Reference to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative ARATA of New Gloucester.  
Cosponsored by Senator BEEBE-CENTER of Knox and  
Representatives: COPELAND of Saco, DODGE of Belfast, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard  
Beach, LOOKNER of Portland, NUTTING of Oakland, SARGENT of York, SUPICA of  
Bangor, ZAGER of Portland.

1 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

2 Sec. 1. 17-A MRSA §18-A is enacted to read:

3 **§18-A. Anti-sex-trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation protocol**

4 A person who a law enforcement officer has reason to believe is experiencing or has  
5 experienced human trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation must be treated in  
6 accordance with the anti-sex-trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation protocol,  
7 referred to in this section as "the protocol," adopted by the responding law enforcement  
8 agency under subsection 2.

9 **1. Law enforcement agency; definition.** As used in this section, unless the context  
10 otherwise indicates, "law enforcement agency" has the same meaning as in Title 25, section  
11 3701, subsection 1.

12 **2. Adoption of anti-sex-trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation protocol.**  
13 This subsection governs the adoption of anti-sex-trafficking and commercial sexual  
14 exploitation protocols by law enforcement agencies. An anti-sex-trafficking and  
15 commercial sexual exploitation protocol must include information on anti-trafficking  
16 organizations; sexual assault organizations; domestic violence victim advocacy  
17 organizations; crisis services; mental health and substance use disorder professionals;  
18 emergency and transitional housing; and case management services.

19 A. By January 1, 2026, the Department of Public Safety shall consult with relevant  
20 stakeholders, including anti-trafficking organizations, sexual assault organizations,  
21 domestic violence victim advocacy organizations and crisis services, to adopt a model  
22 anti-sex-trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation protocol. Rules adopted  
23 pursuant to this paragraph are routine technical rules as defined by Title 5, chapter 375,  
24 subchapter 2-A.

25 B. By March 1, 2026, all law enforcement agencies shall adopt anti-sex-trafficking  
26 and commercial sexual exploitation protocols. The protocol of a law enforcement  
27 agency may, but is not required to, conform to the protocol adopted by the Department  
28 of Public Safety.

29 **3. Law enforcement response to victim of human trafficking or commercial**  
30 **sexual exploitation.** A law enforcement officer who responds to a call regarding or  
31 encounters a person who the law enforcement officer has reason to believe is experiencing  
32 or has experienced human trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation shall inquire  
33 whether the person is experiencing or has experienced human trafficking or commercial  
34 sexual exploitation. If the person affirms as experiencing or having experienced human  
35 trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation, the law enforcement officer shall respond to  
36 the person using the anti-sex-trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation protocol  
37 adopted by the officer's law enforcement agency as required under subsection 2.

38 **SUMMARY**

39 This bill directs the Department of Public Safety to adopt a model protocol for law  
40 enforcement agencies to adopt to treat a person who is experiencing or has experienced  
41 human trafficking or commercial sexual exploitation.