



Legislative Bulletin.....July 23, 2014

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H.R. 4983 - Strengthening Transparency in Higher Education Act, as amended (Foxx-R, NC)

Order of Business: [H.R. 4983](#) is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, July 22, 2014, under a suspension of the rules, which requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

Summary: This bill amends the Higher Education Act of 1965 to streamline information about institutions of higher education provided by the federal government that are used by students and families. The information will be disseminated through a “College Dashboard” website. This website will be consumer-tested and annually updated and will include information for the most recent academic year including:

- Link to the website of the institution;
- Identification of the type of institution (i.e. four year public, four year private nonprofit, two year public, less than two year public);
- Number of students, both undergraduate and graduate, enrolled in the institution;
- Student to faculty ratio;
- Percentage of degree seeking students enrolled and the time it takes to obtain a degree;
- Average net price per year for undergraduate students receiving Federal student financial aid;
- A link to the net price calculator;
- Percentage of students who obtained a degree and had Federal student loans as well as the average debt incurred;

- A link to national and regional data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics on starting salaries in all major occupations;
- A link to the website of the institution containing campus safety data.

This bill also directs the Secretary of Education to provide links through the College Dashboard website that would provide further information regarding enrollment, degree completion, costs, financial aid, and faculty information.

Finally, this legislation improves the existing net price calculators and requires them to show the net price calculated, average annual cost of room and board, average annual cost of books and supplies, and estimated total need-based aid that may be available.

Additional Background: Previous attempts have been made at making information at colleges and universities more transparent. For example, the [Higher Education Opportunity Act](#) required institutions to make information about price, financial aid, and other basic facts readily available to the public; unfortunately, this coupled with other federal programs caused conflicting information and more confusion among users. The numerous existing outlets of information would now be streamlined into the College Dashboard website created by this bill. Read the committee report [here](#) and a one page fact sheet provided by the committee [here](#).

Committee Action: This bill was introduced on June 26, 2014, by Representative Foxx and referred to the House Committee on Education and Workforce. The committee held a mark-up on [June 10, 2014](#) where the bill was adopted by voice vote.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

Cost to Taxpayers: H.R. 4983 would reserve \$1 million from funding for the Department of Education to replace the current College Navigator website. [CBO](#) estimates that implementing H.R. 4983 would require \$1 million for administrative costs for the department over the 2015-2019 period, assuming the availability of appropriated funds.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: H.R. 4983 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

Does the Bill Contain Any Federal Encroachment into State or Local Authority in Potential Violation of the 10th Amendment?: No.

Does the Bill Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: H.R. 4983 does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of House Rule XXI.

Constitutional Authority: According to the sponsor, “Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.” Read the statement [here](#).

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H.R. 5134 -To extend the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity and the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance for one year (Foxx, R-NC)

Order of Business: [H.R. 5134](#) is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, July 22, 2014, under a suspension of the rules, which requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

Summary: This bill amends the [Higher Education Act of 1965](#) to extend the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity and the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance for one year.

Additional Background: The Department of Education established the [National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity](#) to advise the Secretary of Education on matters related to higher education accreditation and to review the accreditation and certification processes of higher education institutions. The Committee consists of eighteen appointed members with six year membership terms. This Committee serves to provide recommendations to the Secretary regarding the effectiveness and rigor of accrediting entities’ standards. The Committee is set to terminate on September 30, 2014.

The [Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance](#) was established within the Department of Education to provide counsel to the Secretary and authorizing committees concerning matters of financial aid. The Advisory Committee acts as an independent advisory board that provides technical expertise and recommendations on institutional programs of postsecondary student assistance. The Advisory Committee consists of eleven appointed members and is authorized through October 1, 2014.

Committee Action: H.R. 5134 was introduced by Representative Foxx on July 17, 2014, and referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce where it awaits further action. The House Education and the Workforce Committee is currently working to reauthorize the Higher Education Act. To accomplish this goal, members have examined issues ranging from the accessibility gap to the simplification of the federal aid process and the committee has held numerous [hearings](#) on the topic of higher education.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

Cost to Taxpayers: No CBO cost estimate is available as of press time.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any Federal Encroachment into State or Local Authority in Potential Violation of the 10th Amendment?: No.

Does the Bill Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?: No.

Constitutional Authority: According to the sponsor, “Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.” Read the statement [here](#).

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H.R. 5081 - Strengthening Child Welfare Response to Trafficking Act of 2014 (Bass, D-CA)

Order of Business: [H.R. 5081](#) is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, July 22, 2014, under a suspension of the rules, which requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage

Summary: This bill amends the [Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act](#) to require states to include in their grant application for improving the child protective service system:

- provisions and procedures relating to training representatives on identifying children who may be trafficking victims;
- identifying and assessing reports involving children who are trafficking victims;
- information on how to identify services for appropriate referral to address the needs of children who are trafficking victims.

No later than one year after enactment, the Secretary of Health and Human Services is to issue a report describing the specific type and prevalence of trafficking that children have been subject to, a summary of the practices used by states to identify and serve children who are at risk of becoming victims of trafficking, and barriers in Federal laws that may prevent the identification of children who are victims of trafficking.

In this bill “[severe forms of trafficking in persons](#)” is defined as:

1. Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; or
2. The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

This bill defines “sex trafficking” as the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act.

Additional Background: It is estimated that every year 300,000 American youth may become victims of sex trafficking. In addition, approximately one out of seven runaway youth reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children were likely victims of sex trafficking.

Committee Action: This bill was introduced by Representative Bass on July 11, 2014, and referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce where it awaits further action. The Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education held a [hearing](#) entitled "Protecting America's Youth: An Update from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children" which focused on how to protect vulnerable youth from trafficking.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

Cost to Taxpayers: No CBO cost estimate is available as of press time.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any Federal Encroachment into State or Local Authority in Potential Violation of the 10th Amendment?: No.

Does the Bill Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?: No.

Constitutional Authority: According to the sponsor, "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives." Read the statement [here](#).

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H.R. 5111— To improve the response to victims of child sex trafficking (Joyce Beatty, D-OH)

Order of Business: [H.R. 5111](#) is scheduled to be considered on July 23, 2014, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, which requires a two-thirds majority for passage.

Summary: This bill amends the Missing Children's Assistance Act. As a condition of the grant awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the Center is to maintain a cyber tipline to provide online users and Internet service providers an effective means of reporting Internet-related child sexual exploitation. This bill replaces the phrase "child prostitution" with "child sex trafficking" as an area in which users are to report incidents.

Additional Background: In 2014, the [National Center for Missing and Exploited Children](#) received more than 2.3 million reports of suspected sexual exploitation through the cyber tipline.

The Center is then able to assist law enforcement through the analytical services through the Child Sex Trafficking Team.

Committee Action: H.R. 5111 was introduced and referred to the House Education and the Workforce Committee on July 15, 2014. The Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education held a [hearing](#) entitled “Protecting America’s Youth: An Update from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children” which focused on how to protect vulnerable youth from trafficking

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

Cost to Taxpayers: No Congressional Budget Office cost estimate is available at this time.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any Federal Encroachment into State or Local Authority in Potential Violation of the 10th Amendment?: No.

Does the Bill Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?: No.

Constitutional Authority: According to the sponsor, “Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.” Read the statement [here](#).

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H.R. 5076 - Enhancing Services for Runaway and Homeless Victims of Youth Trafficking Act of 2014— (Heck, R-NV)

Order of Business: [H.R. 5076](#) is scheduled for consideration on Tuesday, July 22, 2014, under a suspension of the rules, which requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

Summary: This bill amends the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act to allow for grants to States, localities, and private entities (and combinations of such entities) to carry out research, evaluation, demonstration, and service projects to increase knowledge and improve services for those who have been trafficked. It allows the Secretary of Health and Human Services to give priority in awarding these grants to entities which have staff training in the behavioral and emotional effects of trafficking, responding to youth who are showing effects of trafficking, and agency-wide strategies for working with runaway and homeless youth who have been victims of trafficking. Finally, the Secretary may award grants for sexual abuse prevention programs to

nonprofit private agencies for the purpose of providing street-based services to those who have been victims of severe forms of human trafficking or sex trafficking.

In this bill “[severe forms of trafficking in persons](#)” is defined as:

3. Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; or
4. The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services, through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

This bill defines “sex trafficking” as the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act.

Committee Action: This bill was introduced by Representative Heck on July 11, 2014, and referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce where it awaits further action. The Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education held a [hearing](#) entitled “Protecting America’s Youth: An Update from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children” which focused on how to protect vulnerable youth from trafficking

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

Cost to Taxpayers: No CBO cost estimate is available as of press time.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any Federal Encroachment into State or Local Authority in Potential Violation of the 10th Amendment?: No.

Constitutional Authority: According to the sponsor, “Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.” Read the statement [here](#).

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H.R. 4980 – The Preventing Sex Trafficking and Strengthening Families Act (Camp, R-MI)

Order of Business: The legislation is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, July 23, 2014, under a suspension of the rules, which requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

Summary: [H.R. 4980](#) is designed to quickly move children from foster care into permanent adoptive homes or the homes of relatives, to encourage states to reduce the incidence of sex

trafficking among youth in foster care, and increase the amount of child support paid to families in which one parent is outside of the U.S.

Additional Information: The bill incorporates a bicameral agreement to resolve differences between provisions of three separate bills that passed the House ([H.R. 1896](#), [H.R. 3205](#), [H.R. 4058](#)) and three bills that passed the Senate Finance Committee (S. 1876, S. 1877, and S. 1878). A press release by the Committee on Ways and Means is available [here](#). The Legislative Bulletin for H.R. 4058 can be found [here](#). The Legislative bulletin for H.R. 1896 can be found [here](#). The Legislative Bulletin for H.R. 3205 can be found [here](#).

Committee Action: The legislation was introduced on June 26, 2014, and referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means and House Budget. Although the Committees took no action on this bill, the House passed the component bills that are incorporated in the legislation.

Administration Position: There is no Statement of Administration Policy available.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to the Congressional Budget Office cost estimate implementing this legislation will save \$1 million over five years and \$19 million over 2014-2024.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: No.

Constitutional Authority: According to the sponsor, “Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution, to `provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States.” Chairman Camp’s statement in the Congressional Record can be viewed [here](#).

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H.R. 5135 – The Human Trafficking Prevention, Intervention, and Recovery Act of 2014 (Noem, R-SD)

Order of Business: The legislation is scheduled for consideration on Wednesday, July 23, 2014, under a suspension of the rules, which requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage.

Summary: [H.R. 5135](#) requires the [Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking](#) (PITF) established under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 ([22 U.S.C. 7103](#)) to identify best practices and strategies to prevent human trafficking and review federal efforts to combat trafficking and better protect and recover trafficking victims.

Additional Information: According to the [Department of Homeland Security](#) the average age for a girl to enter the commercial sex trade is 12-14 years old; for boys, it is 11-13 years old. This bill is part of a larger push by the House to combat human trafficking. In May, the Judiciary Committee passed several pieces of bipartisan legislation to combat human trafficking. More information about the previous package of bills can be found [here](#).

Committee Action: The legislation was introduced on July 17, 2014, and referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary and the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. There was no further Committee action on the bill.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: No Congressional Budget Office cost estimate is available.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: No.

Constitutional Authority: According to the sponsor of the bill, “Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8.” Representative Noem’s statement in the Congressional Record can be viewed [here](#).

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H. R. 5116 – Human Trafficking Detection Act of 2014 (Meadows, R-NC)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on July 23, 2014, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, which requires a two-thirds majority for passage.

Summary: [H. R. 5116](#) would direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to train Department of Homeland Security (DHS) personnel on how to effectively deter, detect, disrupt, and prevent human trafficking. Section 3 of the bill would mandate that the Secretary of Homeland Security implement a program to:

- Train and periodically retrain Transportation Security Administration (TSA), U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and other Department of Homeland Security personnel that the Secretary considers appropriate on how to disrupt human trafficking and to interdict suspected perpetrators of human trafficking;
- Ensure that such personnel regularly receive current information on matters related to the detection of human trafficking.

Section 3 permits the training to be conducted through in-class or virtual learning and includes:

- Methods for identifying suspected victims and perpetrators of human trafficking;
- Methods for approaching a suspected victim in a manner that is sensitive to the victim and not likely to alert a perpetrator;
- Training that is most appropriate for a particular location or environment; and
- A post-training evaluation for personnel receiving the training.

The Secretary of Homeland Security is also mandated to annually reassess the established training program to ensure that it is consistent with current techniques, patterns, and trends associated with human trafficking.

Section 4 of the legislation directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to certify to Congress within one year of the bill's enactment that specified personnel have successfully received and completed the required training. Additionally, the Secretary is directed to report annually to Congress on the overall effectiveness of the training program and on the number of human trafficking cases reported by Department of Homeland Security personnel and the number of trafficking cases that have been confirmed. Section 5 of the bill would authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to provide training curricula to assist any state, local, or tribal government or private organization in establishing a training program to identify human trafficking.

Additional Information: A May 1, 2014 Congressional Research Service (CRS) report on human trafficking can be found [here](#). The [Department of Homeland Security](#) launched the [Blue Campaign](#) in 2010 which seeks to unify several DHS components to more effectively combat human trafficking and includes [new training and awareness initiatives](#) for relevant personnel.

Committee Action: The bill was introduced on July 15, 2014 and was referred to the House Committee on Homeland Security, and the House Committee on the Judiciary. No further action has been taken.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: According to a preliminary Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate, H. R. 5116 would not affect direct spending.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Constitutional Authority: Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Amendment XIII Section 1, "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as

punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction." Section 2, "Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

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H. R. 4449 – Human Trafficking Prevention Act *(Sean Patrick Maloney, D-NY)*

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on July 23, 2014, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, which requires a two-thirds majority for passage.

Summary: [H. R. 4449](#) amends the [Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000](#) to require training for Federal Government personnel on methods of identifying and protecting victims of human trafficking to include:

- A distance learning course on trafficking-in-persons issues and the Department of State's obligations mandated by the legislation, targeted for embassy reporting officers, regional bureaus' trafficking-in-persons coordinators, and their superiors;
- Specific trafficking-in-persons briefings for all ambassadors and deputy chiefs of mission before they depart for their posts; and
- At least annual reminders to all such personnel, including appropriate personnel from other Federal departments and agencies, at each diplomatic or consular post of the Department of State located outside the United States of key problems, threats, methods, and warning signs of trafficking in persons specific to the country or jurisdiction in which each such post is located, and appropriate procedures to report information that any such personnel may acquire about possible cases of trafficking in persons.

Additional Information: The Department of State does have an additional mandate to combat human trafficking. The Department's [Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons](#), established by the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, is tasked with leading the United States' global effort to combat human trafficking by partnering with foreign governments and civil society. The Office is responsible for bilateral and multilateral diplomacy, targeted foreign assistance, and public engagement on trafficking in persons.

Committee Action: H. R. 4449 was introduced on April 10, 2014 and referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. On May 29, the bill was considered, marked-up, and reported out by unanimous consent.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that the additional personnel who might require training and the new training required under the bill would not impose significant costs on the Departments of State, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Labor, the Department of Justice, and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2015-2019 period; those costs would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply. The CBO estimate can be found [here](#).

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: H. R. 4449 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

Constitutional Authority: Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8 of the US Constitution.

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H. R. 2283 – Human Trafficking Prioritization Act (Christopher Smith, R-NJ)

Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on July 23, 2014, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, which requires a two-thirds majority for passage.

Summary: [H. R. 2283](#) expresses a sense of Congress that the Department of State’s [Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking](#) will be more effective in carrying out duties mandated by Congress in the [Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000](#) if the Office status is changed to that of a Bureau within the Department hierarchy. The bill expresses a sense of Congress that:

- The change in status from Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking to a Bureau can be accomplished without increasing the number of personnel or the budget of the current Office;
- A Bureau to Monitor and Combat Trafficking would be more effective in carrying out duties mandated by Congress in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 if the Bureau were headed by an Assistant Secretary with direct access to the Secretary of State, rather than an Ambassador-at-Large; and
- The Secretary of State should review the current use of the 24 Assistant Secretary positions authorized by section 1(c)(1) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 ([22 United States Code 2651a\(c\)\(1\)](#)) and make appropriate revisions,

consolidations, and eliminations to ensure that those positions reflect the highest Departmental needs and foreign policy priorities of the United States, including efforts to combat trafficking in persons.

Section 4 of H. R. 2283 would amend the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to change the status of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking to that of the Bureau to Combat Trafficking in Persons. Section 5 of the bill would mandate that the Secretary of State report to Congress detailing for each current Assistant Secretary of State position:

- The title of that Assistant Secretary of State;
- How long that particular Assistant Secretary designation has been in existence; and
- Whether that particular Assistant Secretary designation was legislatively mandated or authorized and, if so, the relevant statutory citation for such mandate or authorization; and whether the Secretary intends to designate one of the Assistant Secretary of State positions as the Assistant Secretary of State to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

The Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking produces [an annual report](#) categorizing countries based on their efforts to comply with certain standards and reduce trafficking. Countries that do not comply are placed on a watch list. Section 6 of the bill would amend of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 by mandating that countries that have been downgraded and subsequently returned to the watch list would have only one year (rather than the four years under current law) to show sustained improvement, before being once again subject to penalties. Section 7 stipulates that no additional funds are authorized to be appropriated for Diplomatic and Consular Programs to carry out the provisions of the bill.

Additional Information: According to the findings of H. R. 2283, [the International Labor Organization](#) estimates that nearly 21,000,000 people are subjected to modern slavery around the world at any given time and that the majority of the enslaved are women and girls. In response, Congress authorized the creation of a Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 ([division A of Public Law 106-386](#)) in order to directly assist the Secretary of State in his or her effort to coordinate a United States Government interagency response to domestic and international human trafficking. The [Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons](#) monitors trafficking worldwide and produces the online and printed versions of the annual Trafficking in Persons Report.

Committee Action: The bill was introduced on June 6, 2014 and was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. On June 26, 2014, the bill was considered, marked-up, and reported in the nature of a substitute (amended) by unanimous consent.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that implementing the bill would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2015-2019 period, assuming the availability of

appropriated funds. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

The Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP) office currently has a staff of 40 employees; under section 4, it would become the Department's smallest bureau. The bill would not create a new Assistant Secretary position to lead the bureau, nor would it authorize any other increase in personnel or additional appropriations. Section 5 would require the Department of State to report to the Congress on its current Assistant Secretary positions and whether it intends to use one of those positions for the new bureau. Based on information from the Department that it would be able to upgrade the office to a bureau without any significant increase in employees or spending, and assuming the availability of appropriated funds, CBO estimates that implementing sections 4 and 5 would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2015-2019 period. The CBO estimate for H. R. 2283 can be found [here](#).

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: H.R. 2283 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments

Constitutional Authority: Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 3 and 18, as this bill better equips the Executive Branch to properly carry out the powers vested in it by the Constitution, as well as ensures that Congress is accurately informed of a foreign nations' trafficking record and tier ranking when Congress considers regulation of commerce with foreign nations.

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NOTE: *RSC Legislative Bulletins are for informational purposes only and should not be taken as statements of support or opposition from the Republican Study Committee.*

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