

S.F. No. 133 – Amending the Crimes Related to Labor Trafficking

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The bill makes changes to definitions related to the crimes of labor trafficking, creates the crime of labor trafficking that results in death, and creates enhanced penalties for labor trafficking a person over an extended period of time or when a labor trafficking victim suffers great bodily harm as a result of the trafficking.

Summary

Section 1 Deletes the definition of “blackmail” and makes a conforming change to adopt the term “forced or coerced labor or services.”

Section 2 makes a conforming change to remove the term “blackmail” and adopt the term “forced or coerced labor or services.”

Section 3 amends the definition of “debt bondage” by removing references to a pledge by a debtor and defining the term as the status of a person who provides labor or services for a real or alleged debt when the value of the labor or services is not deducted from the debt, or the length and nature of the services is not limited or defined.

Section 4 makes changes to the definition of “forced or coerced labor or services” to specify the types of harm or threat of harm that qualifies as forcing labor or services.

Section 5 amends the definition of “labor trafficking” to include actions done in furtherance of prohibited conduct and makes additional technical changes.

Section 6 establishes the crime of labor trafficking resulting in death. Provides that a person who knowingly engages in the labor trafficking of an individual may be sentenced to up to 25 years in prison if the labor trafficking victim dies and the death arose out of and in the course of the trafficking.

Section 7 establishes an enhanced crime of labor trafficking a person over an extended period of time or when the victim suffers great bodily harm. Includes the existing crime of trafficking a person under age 18 in the new subdivision. Establishes a maximum penalty of 20 years for the offense.

Section 8 repeals the definition of “blackmail” in section 609.281, subdivision 2.