

Sex Trafficking Bill CC1 SKK/ 03/19/19 TuesPM/WedAM

Under a proposed bill, minors in Arkansas who are victims of sex trafficking, would no longer be charged with prostitution. The House Judiciary Committee passed the legislation on Tuesday.

Rep. Jamie Scott, is the sponsor of the bill. She told the committee she did not know of any opposition to the legislation, and believes this bill is “a step forward with the juvenile diversion that we’re trying to say we’re champions for in the state.”

Under the proposed bill, minors would not be charged with committing the offense of prostitution if the person who committed said act was a victim of sex trafficking. Scott said she thought the legislation was helpful, no matter how many or few people the bill helped.

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“...address it”

“I think even if it impacts one child, we should be standing up for those individuals who are victims... I wouldn’t want there to be an incident and there’s not a law to address it.”

The committee passed the bill by a voice vote, with no audible dissent. It now heads to the House Floor.