

HOUSE BILL NO. 474

INTRODUCED BY J. ECK

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO UNDERTAKE EFFORTS TO PREVENT CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND CHILD SEX TRAFFICKING."

WHEREAS, the state has not undertaken significant statewide activities to provide education on the difficult topics of child sexual abuse and child sex trafficking, to provide parents with information on the warning signs of child sexual abuse, or to prevent sexual abuse or sex trafficking of children.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. Section 1. Child sexual abuse and child sex trafficking prevention. The department of justice shall undertake activities to educate Montanans about child sexual abuse and child sex trafficking. Activities must include but are not limited to:

(1) reviewing best practices for preventing child sexual abuse and moving toward implementing the practices in Montana;

(2) providing educational presentations and distributing educational materials to interested parents, teachers, child-care providers, and other community members on how to prevent child sexual abuse and child sex trafficking, on the warning signs of child sexual abuse and child sex trafficking, and on predatory behaviors;

(3) coordinating educational and prevention efforts with law enforcement, the department of public health and human services, and local organizations that work to prevent child abuse;

(4) gathering data and maintaining statistics on the levels of child sexual abuse and child sex trafficking in Montana and making these statistics publicly available;

(5) developing a statewide child sexual abuse prevention and awareness program; and

(6) where appropriate, coordinating with organizations and agencies working to prevent child sexual abuse and human trafficking.

NEW SECTION. Section 2. Codification instruction. [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 44, chapter 4, and the provisions of Title 44, chapter 4, apply to [section 1].

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