



## 104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB5455

Introduced 2/13/2026, by Rep. Justin Slaughter

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

720 ILCS 5/11-18.2 new

Amends the Criminal Code of 2012. Provides that, in addition to any other disposition authorized by law, the court shall order any person arrested for patronizing a person engaged in the sex trade to participate in the Buyer Accountability Program and pay a fee of \$1,000. Provides for the distribution of the fees. Establishes an education program to be known as the Buyer Accountability Program, which shall consist of an instructional program on prostitution and human trafficking schemes offered in one or more locations throughout the State. Establishes who may establish the program in various areas of the State. Provides that the program shall include information intended to increase the person's awareness of: (1) the causes of prostitution and its relationship to human trafficking; (2) the health and safety risks connected with prostitution, including its impact on the community; (3) the consequences of convictions for prostitution or human trafficking, including penalties for subsequent convictions on both patronizers and victims; and (4) the pervasiveness of human trafficking as well as the long-term physical and psychological harms of prostitution and human trafficking on its victims. Provides that a program must be approved by the Attorney General. Provides that the Attorney General shall notify the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts that the program has been established and approved by the Attorney General.

LRB104 18216 RLC 31655 b

1 AN ACT concerning criminal law.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**  
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Criminal Code of 2012 is amended by adding  
5 Section 11-18.2 as follows:

6 (720 ILCS 5/11-18.2 new)

7 Sec. 11-18.2. Patronizing a person engaged in the sex  
8 trade; assessment.

9 (a) In addition to any other disposition authorized by  
10 law, the court shall order any person arrested for patronizing  
11 a person engaged in the sex trade as provided under Section  
12 11-18 to participate in the Buyer Accountability Program  
13 established under subsection (d).

14 (b) In addition to any fine, fee, assessment, or penalty  
15 authorized under Section 11-18, a person charged with  
16 patronizing a person engaged in the sex trade as provided  
17 under Section 11-18 shall be assessed, if ordered to  
18 participate in the Buyer Accountability Program, a fee of  
19 \$1,000.

20 (c) Each \$1,000 fee assessed as required by this Section  
21 shall be collected by the court, and deposited into the  
22 Specialized Services for Survivors of Human Trafficking Fund  
23 established by Section 5-9-1.21 of the Unified Code of

1 Corrections. From this fee, \$600 shall be retained in the  
2 fund, and the remaining \$400 shall be distributed as follows:

3 (1) \$300 to the approved provider of the Buyer  
4 Accountability Program, as established under subsection  
5 (d), attended by the person; and

6 (2) \$100 to the law enforcement agency that arrested  
7 the person resulting in that person's arrest.

8 (d) (1) There is established an education program to be  
9 known as the Buyer Accountability Program, which shall consist  
10 of an instructional program on prostitution and human  
11 trafficking schemes offered in one or more locations  
12 throughout the State as follows:

13 (A) by a local public entity as defined in Section  
14 1-206 of the Local Governmental and Governmental Employees  
15 Tort Immunity Act, alone or in partnership with a  
16 nonprofit, pertaining to the proposed operation of an  
17 instructional program by the local public entity, or  
18 alternatively, by a nonprofit or other private provider on  
19 behalf of the local public entity and the Attorney  
20 General. If a local public entity establishes and operates  
21 an instructional program, then all courts operating within  
22 the jurisdiction of that local public entity shall order a  
23 person convicted of an eligible offense under subsection  
24 (a) to attend that local public entity's program. A court  
25 shall not be required to order a person to attend that  
26 program until the first day of the month next following

1 the date on which the Attorney General notifies the  
2 Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts that the  
3 program has been established and approved by the Attorney  
4 General; and

5 (B) the program shall be established within 6 months  
6 of the effective date of this amendatory Act of the 104th  
7 General Assembly. Any court in a jurisdiction that does  
8 not have an approved local public entity instructional  
9 program as established under subparagraph (A) of this  
10 paragraph shall order a person charged with an eligible  
11 offense under subsection (a) to attend the approved State  
12 program established under this subparagraph, unless there  
13 is an extra-jurisdictional local public entity  
14 instructional program within 25 miles of the court, and  
15 the court has been notified in accordance with this  
16 subparagraph, or subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, of  
17 the availability of that program to accept participants  
18 from the court, in which case the court may instead order a  
19 person to attend the local public entity's instructional  
20 program; regarding any program notice under this  
21 subparagraph, a court shall not be required to order a  
22 person to attend a program until the first day of the month  
23 next following the date on which the Attorney General  
24 notifies the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts  
25 that the program has been established and approved by the  
26 Attorney General.

1       (2) The program shall include information intended to  
2 increase the person's awareness of:

3           (A) the causes of prostitution and its relationship to  
4 human trafficking;

5           (B) the health and safety risks connected with  
6 prostitution, including its impact on the community;

7           (C) the consequences of convictions for prostitution  
8 or human trafficking, including penalties for subsequent  
9 convictions on both patronizers and victims; and

10          (D) the pervasiveness of human trafficking as well as  
11 the long-term physical and psychological harms of  
12 prostitution and human trafficking on its victims.