



2023-2024 General Assembly

HOUSE BILL 259: 2023 Appropriations Act, Sec. 16.23: Competitive Grants for Nonprofit Organizations Providing Services to Victims of Human Trafficking

Committee:		Date:	December 14, 2023
Introduced by:		Prepared by:	Bill Patterson Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	Sec. 16.23 of S.L. 2023-134		

OVERVIEW: Section 16.23 of S.L. 2023-134 requires the Human Trafficking Commission to develop and implement a program to award grants to eligible nonprofit organizations that directly provide services to victims of human trafficking.

This section became effective July 1, 2023.

BILL ANALYSIS: Section 16.23(a) of S.L. 2023-134 enacts G.S. 7A-354.1 to create the Human Trafficking Commission Competitive Grant Program.

To be eligible for a grant, an applicant must be a nonprofit corporation, must provide direct services to victims of human trafficking, must be ineligible for a grant under the Domestic Violence Center Fund or the Sexual Assault and Rape Crisis Center Fund, and must submit to the Commission a detailed proposal of its human trafficking service program.

The maximum grant amount is set by the Commission based on availability of funds, not to exceed \$50,000 per grantee per State fiscal year.

Each grantee must report to the Commission on its program initiatives by February 1 of each year following the year it received funds from the Grant Program. No later than April 1 of each year, the Commission must report on the grants awarded in the previous year to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees on Justice and Public Safety, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety, and the Fiscal Research Division.

Section 16.23(b) provides that funds appropriated in this act to the Administrative Office of the Courts to create a human trafficking competitive grant program¹ are to be used to develop and implement the Grant Program.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This section became effective July 1, 2023.

BACKGROUND: New G.S. 7A-354.1 substantially codifies the provisions set forth in S.L. 2021-180, sec. 16.21(a) (the 2021 Appropriations Act), which directed the Human Trafficking Commission to develop and implement a grant program to provide funds to eligible nonprofit organizations for economic assistance and to enhance services to victims of human trafficking. These grants were originally required to be disbursed during the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium; however, this restriction was removed by S.L. 2023-11, sec. 5.2(c).

¹ See Item 25 on [Page E9](#) of the Joint Conference Committee Report on the Current Operations Appropriations Act of 2023.

Jeffrey Hudson
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division