**South Carolina General Assembly**

126th Session, 2025-2026

**H. 4343**

**STATUS INFORMATION**

General Bill

Sponsors: Reps. Wetmore, Erickson, Edgerton, Terribile, Cromer, Schuessler, Crawford, Davis, Calhoon, Oremus, Holman, Pedalino, Bernstein, Cobb-Hunter, Dillard, Bauer, Henderson-Myers, Landing, McDaniel and Waters

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Introduced in the House on April 9, 2025

Currently residing in the House Committee on **Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs**

Summary: Human trafficking awareness and prevention training

**HISTORY OF LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS**

Date Body Action Description with journal page number

4/9/2025 House Introduced and read first time ([House Journal‑page 107](h:\hj\20250409.docx))

4/9/2025 House Referred to Committee on **Medical, Military, Public and Municipal Affairs** ([House Journal‑page 107](h:\hj\20250409.docx))

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**VERSIONS OF THIS BILL**

[04/09/2025](https://www.scstatehouse.gov/sess126_2025-2026/prever/4343_20250409.docx)

A bill

TO AMEND THE SOUTH CAROLINA CODE OF LAWS BY ADDING SECTION 40‑33‑31 SO AS TO REQUIRE HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS AND PREVENTION CONTINUING EDUCATION TRAINING FOR LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSES, REGISTERED NURSES, OR ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES EXCLUDING CERTIFIED REGISTERED NURSE ANESTHETISTS; BY ADDING SECTION 40‑47‑39 SO AS TO REQUIRE HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS AND PREVENTION CONTINUING EDUCATION TRAINING FOR PHYSICIANS; AND BY ADDING SECTION 40‑47‑953 SO AS TO REQUIRE HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS AND PREVENTION CONTINUING EDUCATION TRAINING FOR PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Article 1, Chapter 33, Title 40 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

Section 40‑33‑31. (A)(1) In addition to other requirements of this chapter, successful completion of a one‑hour human trafficking awareness and prevention course that meets the requirements of subsection (B) is a continuing education requirement for licensure renewal, reinstatement, or reactivation as a licensed practical nurse, registered nurse, or advanced practice registered nurse. All licensees shall complete this course requirement before:

(a) January 1, 2028, and every six years thereafter, for persons licensed before January 1, 2026; or

(b) two years after initial licensure and every six years thereafter, for persons initially licensed on or after January 1, 2026.

(2) The requirements of this subsection are in addition to any other continuing education requirements and licensure requirements in this chapter.

(B) A human trafficking awareness and prevention course required by this section:

(1) only may be provided by a continuing education provider approved by the State Board of Nursing; and

(2) must include instruction on:

(a) identifying suspected trafficking victims;

(b) laws for reporting suspected trafficking victims; and

(c) providing care and support to potential trafficking victims.

(C) The provisions of this section do not apply to certified registered nurse anesthetists.

(D) The State Board of Nursing shall adopt rules to implement this section.

SECTION 2. Article 1, Chapter 47, Title 40 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

Section 40‑47‑39. (A)(1) In addition to other requirements of this article, successful completion of a one‑hour human trafficking awareness and prevention course meeting the requirements of subsection (B) is a continuing education requirement for renewal of a physician license pursuant to Section 40‑47‑40 or the reinstatement or reactivation of a physician license pursuant to Section 40‑47‑30. All licensees shall complete this course requirement before:

(a) January 1, 2028, and every six years thereafter, for persons licensed before January 1, 2026; or

(b) two years after initial licensure and every six years thereafter, for persons initially licensed on or after January 1, 2026

(2) The requirements of this subsection are in addition to any other continuing education requirements and any other requirements for any initial licensure, license renewal, and license reinstatement or reactivation in this article.

(B) A human trafficking awareness and prevention course required by this section:

(1) only may be provided by:

(a) a statewide organization recognized by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to recognize and accredit organizations in South Carolina offering continuing medical education;

(b) a statewide organization approved to provide continuing medical education by its national organization which is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education; or

(c) from an organization approved by the State Board of Medical Examiners; and

(2) must include instruction on:

(a) identifying suspected trafficking victims;

(b) laws for reporting suspected trafficking victims; and

(c) providing care and support to potential trafficking victims.

(C) The State Board of Medical Examiners shall adopt rules to implement this section.

SECTION 3. Article 7, Chapter 47, Title 40 of the S.C. Code is amended by adding:

Section 40‑47‑953. (A)(1) In addition to other requirements of this article, evidence of successful completion of a one‑hour human trafficking awareness and prevention course provided in subsection (B) is a continuing education requirement for the renewal of a physician assistant license. All licensees shall complete this course requirement before:

(a) January 1, 2028, and every six years thereafter, for persons licensed before January 1, 2026; or

(b) two years after initial licensure and every six years thereafter, for persons initially licensed on or after January 1, 2026.

(2) The requirements of this subsection are in addition to any other continuing education requirements and other requirements for any initial licensure, license renewal, and license reinstatement or reactivation for physician assistants in this article.

(B) A human trafficking awareness and prevention course required by this section:

(1) only may be provided by a continuing education provider approved by the State Board of Medical Examiners; and

(2) must include instruction on:

(a) identifying suspected trafficking victims;

(b) laws for reporting suspected trafficking victims; and

(c) providing care and support to potential trafficking victims.

(C) The State Board of Medical Examiners shall adopt rules to implement this section.

SECTION 4. This act takes effect on January 1, 2026.

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