

PROTECTED INNOCENCE CHALLENGE

STATE ACTION. NATIONAL CHANGE.

2016 National Mid-Year Legislative Progress Report

The fifth annual Protected Innocence Challenge report released on November 11, 2015 reflected substantial improvements in state legislative responses to domestic minor sex trafficking. For the first time, no state received a failing grade! However, the report also revealed remaining gaps that permit the sexual exploitation of children for profit. The Protected Innocence Challenge examines six areas of law surrounding domestic minor sex trafficking resulting in a comprehensive analysis of each state's statutory scheme. Starting with the inaugural release in 2011, the Protected Innocence Challenge calls all states to improve their laws in order to bring national change.

Legislative changes introduced and enacted so far this year continue to answer this call for change. Strong momentum in the 2016 session addressing domestic minor sex trafficking reflects the efforts of advocates and state legislators across the country who are using the Protected Innocence tools and responding to the challenge to fix legislative gaps that allow trafficked children to remain vulnerable, unidentified and deprived of vital services and justice. This year's legislative season shows a growing movement to ensure that child victims do not face criminal penalties for their own victimization. As of August 1, 2015, 14 states and the District of Columbia had passed laws that prohibit children from being prosecuted for prostitution offenses. During the 2016 session, at least 12 more states have enacted or are considering legislation that eliminates criminal liability for minors under state prostitution laws. States are also increasing other victim protections through extended timelines to commence prosecutions and civil cases against trafficking perpetrators, and expanding avenues to services.

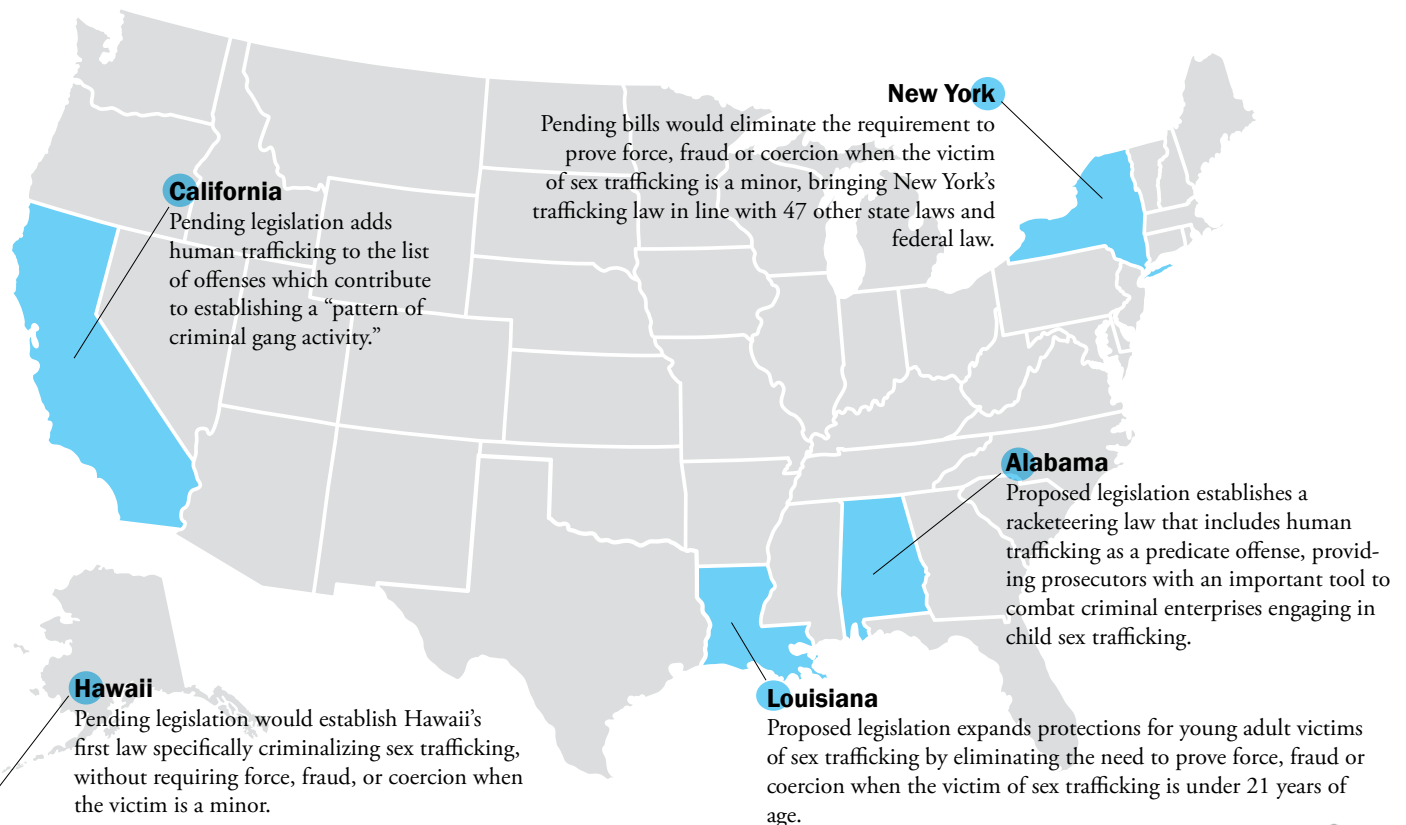
Since August 1, 2015:

- Shared Hope tracked **1,132** bills in **46** states that relate to juvenile sex trafficking.
- **45** states considered bills that impact the Protected Innocence Challenge framework.


Statistics are based on Congressional Quarterly StateTrack report summarized on April 15, 2016.

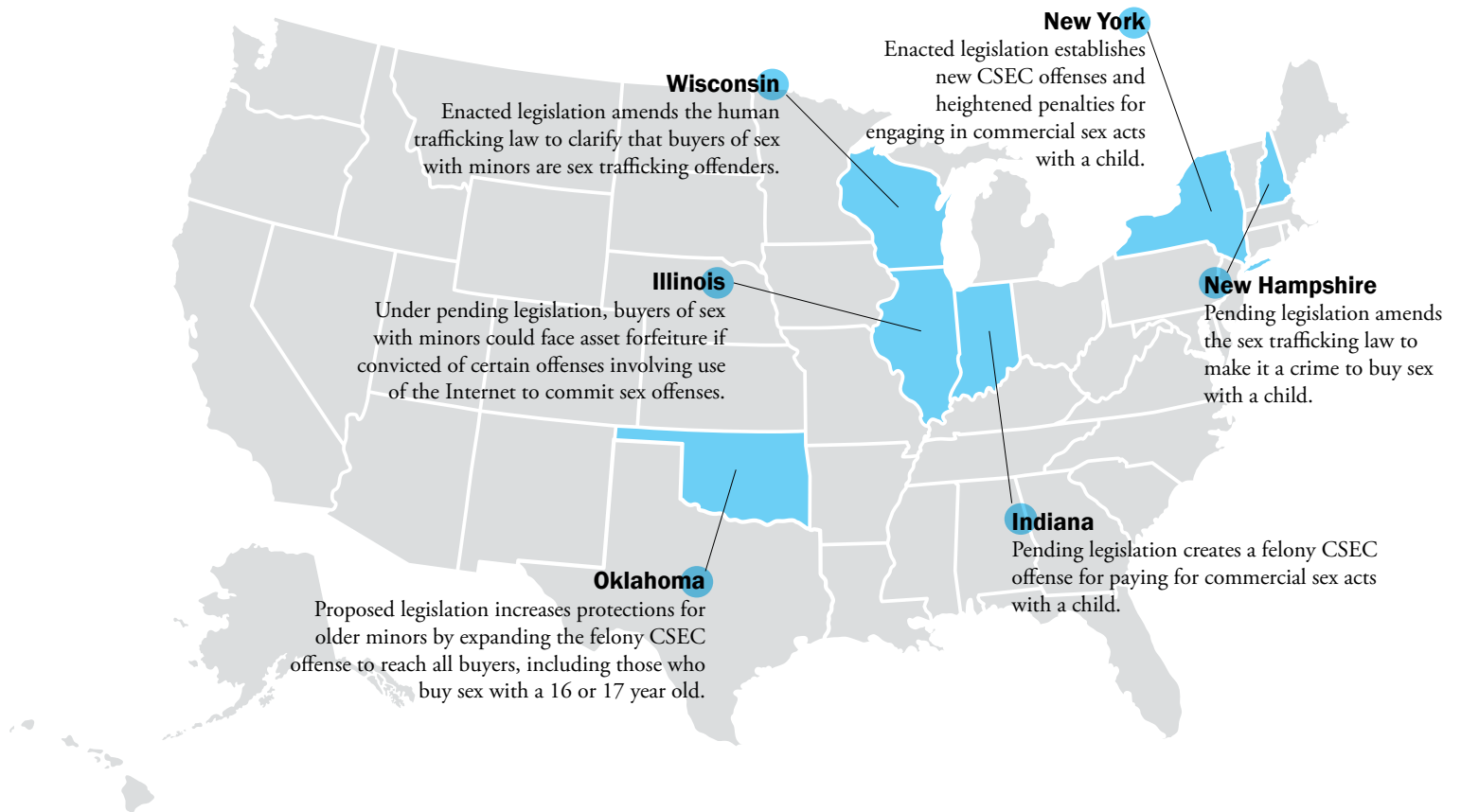
Legislative Highlight

CRIMINALIZATION OF DOMESTIC MINOR SEX TRAFFICKING

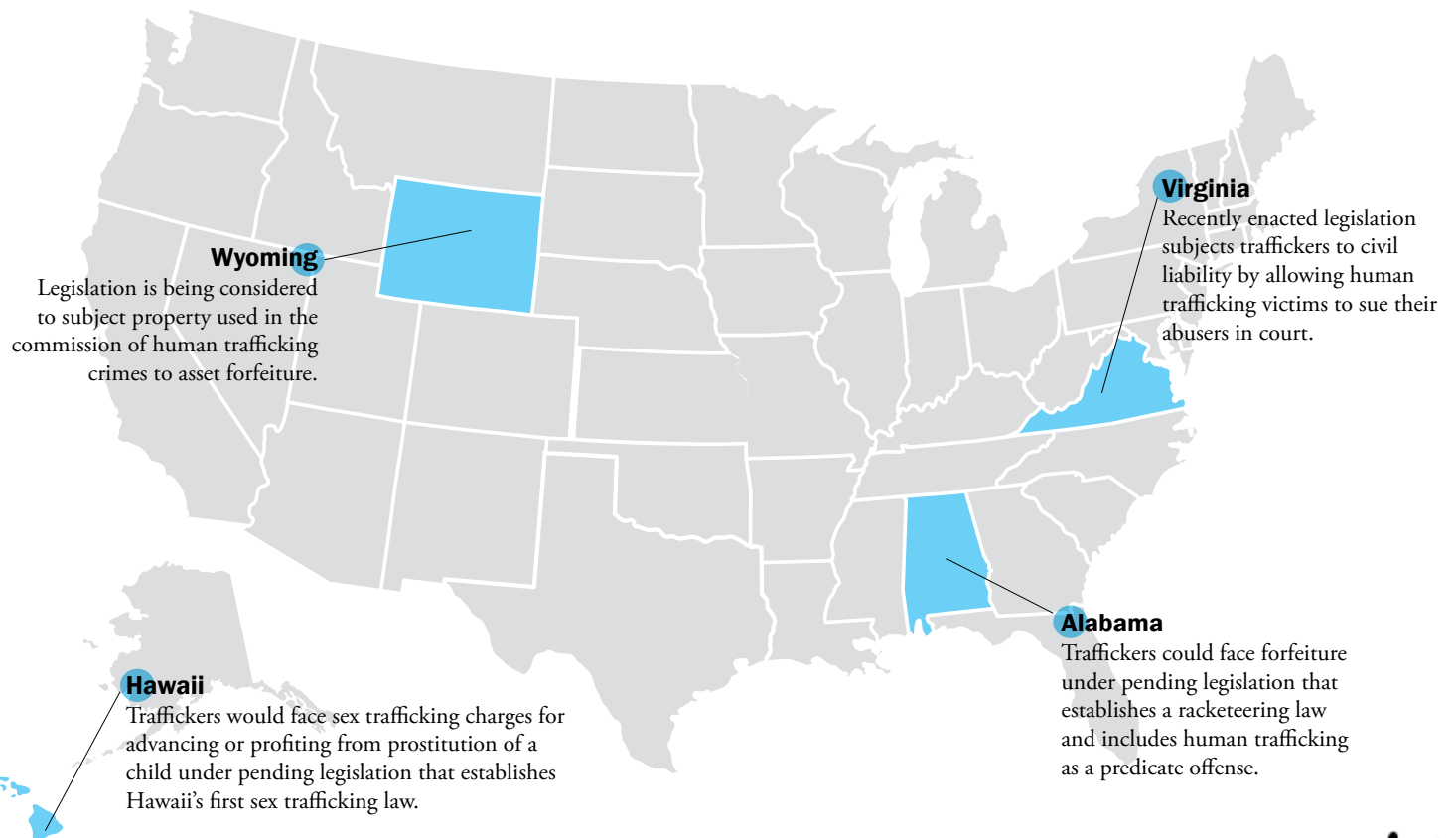


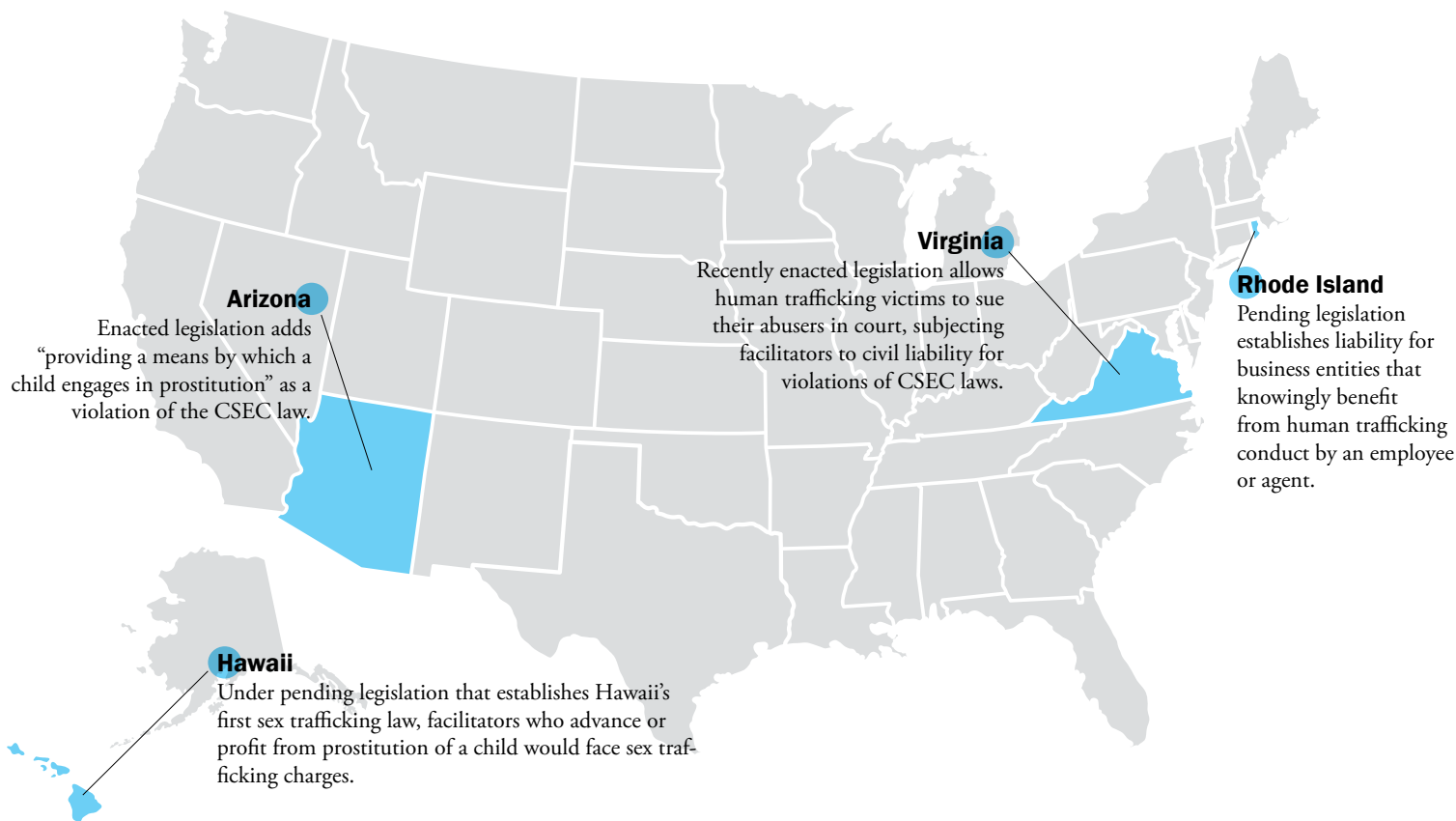
CRIMINAL PROVISIONS ADDRESSING DEMAND

 Legislative highlight



CRIMINAL PROVISIONS FOR TRAFFICKERS





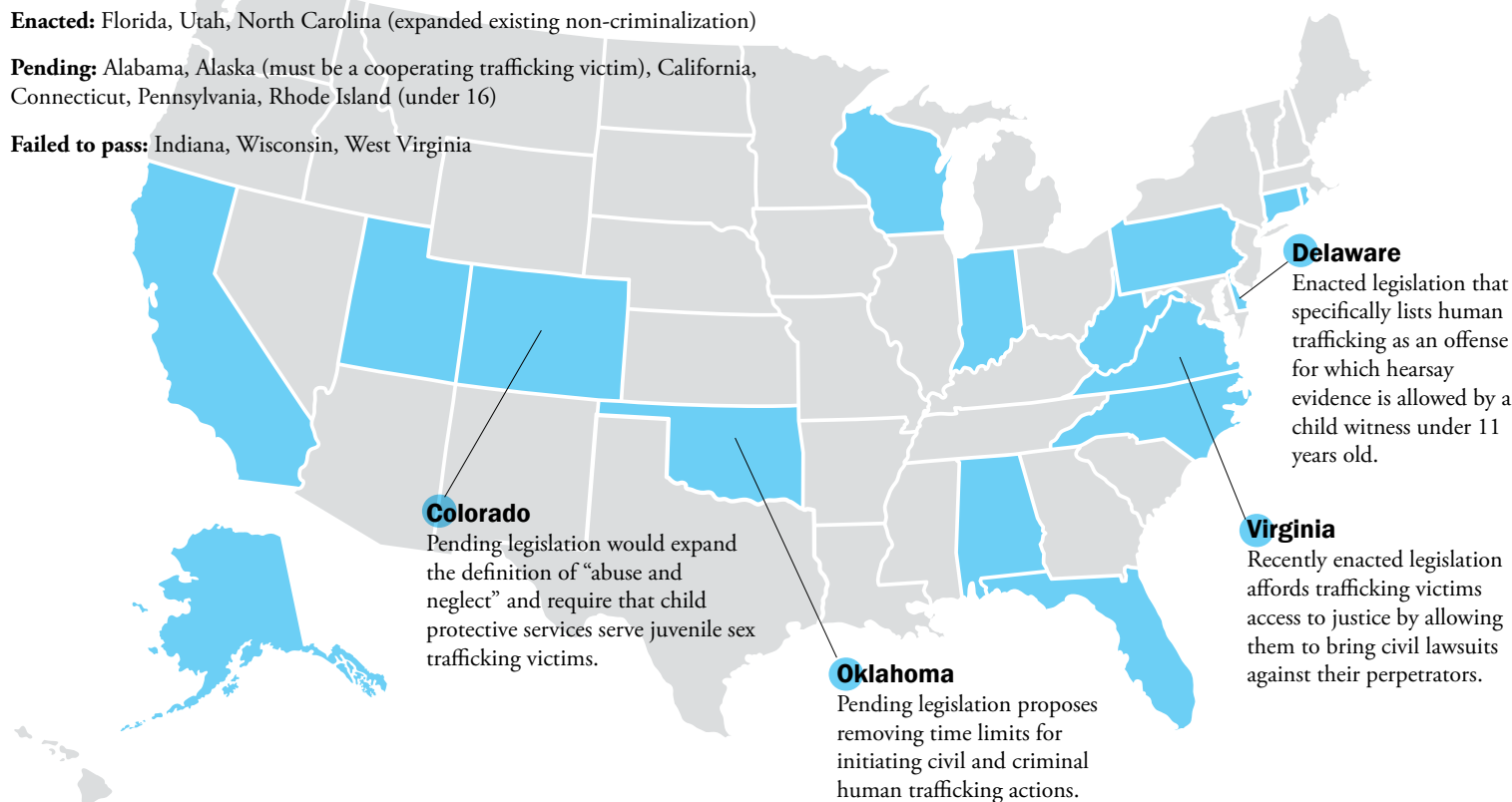
PROTECTIVE PROVISIONS FOR CHILD VICTIMS

Since August 1, 2015, at least 12 states have enacted or considered bills that include non-criminalization of minors for prostitution offenses:


Enacted: Florida, Utah, North Carolina (expanded existing non-criminalization)

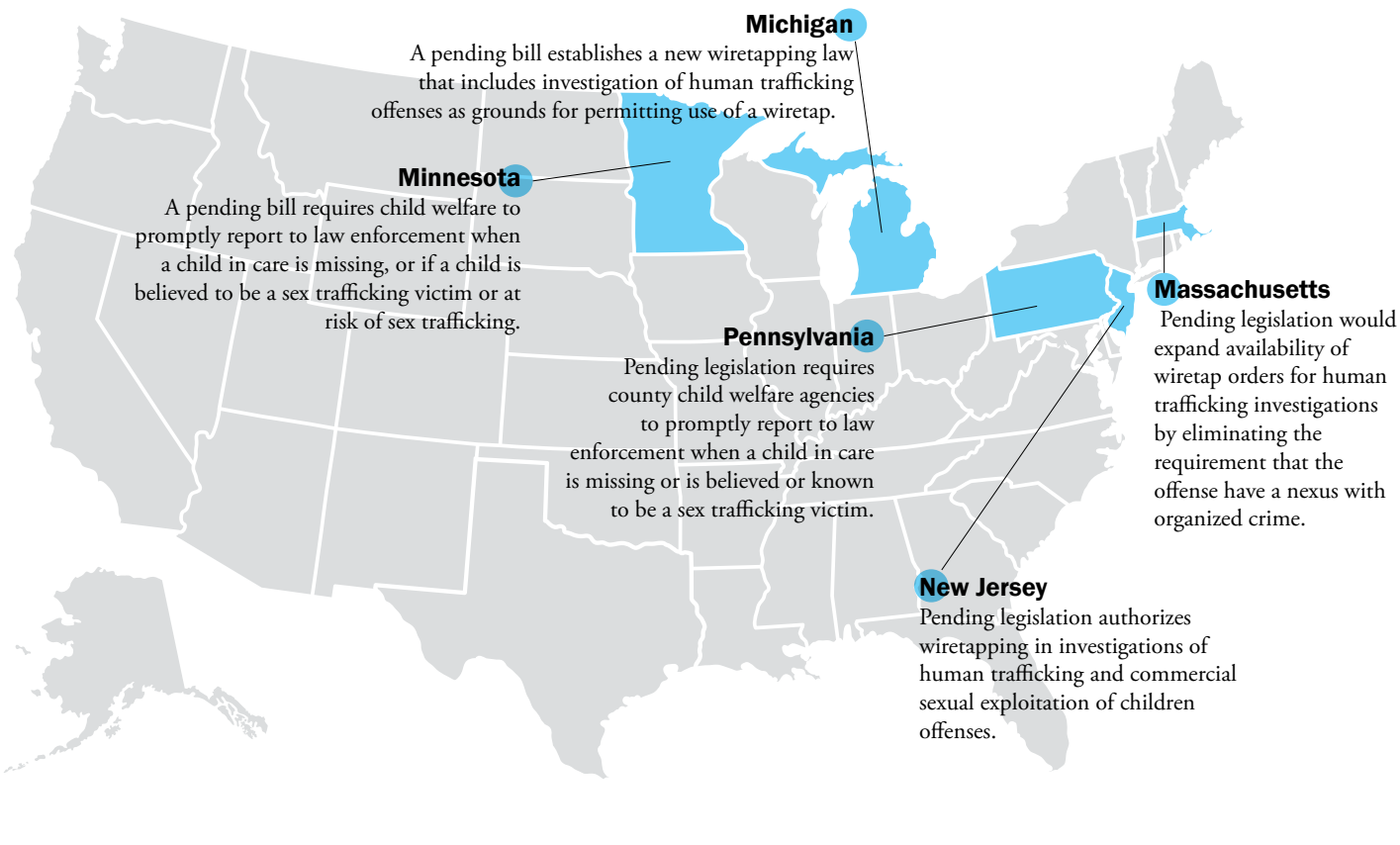
Pending: Alabama, Alaska (must be a cooperating trafficking victim), California, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island (under 16)

Failed to pass: Indiana, Wisconsin, West Virginia



CRIMINAL JUSTICE TOOLS FOR INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION

 Legislative highlight



To find your state Report Card, track pending bills, download advocacy tools, contact your representative and take action on important advocacy initiatives, please visit:
sharedhope.org/policy