

S 1461

Stop Human Trafficking of Unaccompanied Migrant Children Act of 2023

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Immigration

Introduced: May 4, 2023

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (May 4, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/1461>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Scott, Rick [R-FL]

Party: Republican • **State:** FL • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Cotton, Tom [R-AR]	R · AR		May 4, 2023
Sen. Rubio, Marco [R-FL]	R · FL		May 4, 2023

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 4, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Immigration

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 HR 5018	Identical bill	Jul 27, 2023: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

Stop Human Trafficking of Unaccompanied Migrant Children Act of 2023

This bill imposes additional requirements relating to placing unaccompanied alien children with sponsors. (Under federal law, an *unaccompanied alien child* is a minor with no lawful immigration status and no parent or legal guardian in the United States to provide care and physical custody.)

Before the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) may release such a child to a sponsor, the sponsor must complete a fingerprint background check and vetting that includes (1) a public records check, (2) a National Sex Offender Registry check, (3) a Federal Bureau of Investigation National Criminal History Check, (4) a child abuse and neglect check, and (5) state and local criminal history checks. Each adult in the sponsor's household must also undergo such vetting before the placement.

Currently, the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) within HHS conducts background checks of potential sponsors, which includes fingerprinting and checks of criminal public records and sex offender registries. ORR also vets adults in the sponsor's household in certain cases, such as if the sponsor is unrelated to the child, but this vetting may be waived or relaxed.

The bill also requires HHS to visit the home of a proposed sponsor before the placement and to conduct periodic home visits after.

A child may not be placed with a sponsor who is unlawfully present in the United States unless the sponsor is the child's parent, relative, or legal guardian.

HHS must retroactively apply these vetting standards to all sponsors for placements made since January 20, 2021.

Actions Timeline

- **May 4, 2023:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 4, 2023:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.