



# *ENACTMENT NEWS*

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## **House Bill 427** **Addiction to compel prostitution** Effective September 12, 2022

On June 14, 2022, Governor DeWine signed House Bill 427 (Reps. White and Manchester) into law. The bill amends the offense of trafficking in persons to specifically include manipulating the victim's controlled-substance addiction. It takes effect on September 12, 2022.

Under existing law, the offense of "trafficking in persons" (R.C. 2905.32 (A)(1)) includes a prohibition against knowingly recruiting, luring, enticing, isolating, harboring, transporting, providing, obtaining, or maintaining a person if the offender knows the person will be subjected to involuntary servitude or be **compelled** to engage in sexual activity for hire, engage in a performance that is obscene, sexually or nudity oriented, or be a model or participant in the production of such material. Existing law further provides that the element "compelled" is established by proving that "the victim's will was overcome" by force, fear, duress, intimidation, or fraud. H.B. 427 expands this list to also include furnishing or offering a controlled substance to the victim, or by manipulating the victim's addiction to a controlled substance. The bill also clarifies that it must be the offender who overcomes the victim's will.

The Ohio House of Representatives passed the bill by a vote of 98-0 on February 16, 2022. The Senate passed the bill by a vote of 30-0 on May 25, 2022.