



**Anti-Human Trafficking State Legislation**

**November, 2018**

The strength or weakness of the Mid-Atlantic Region’s state laws is basic to our ability to confront human trafficking. Shared Hope International annually undertakes a legal analysis examining the strength of each state’s child sex trafficking laws and produces “The Protected Innocence Challenge Report Card” grading each state on the following six factors:

1. Criminalization of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking
2. Criminal Provisions for Demand
3. Criminal Provisions For Traffickers
4. Criminal Provisions for Facilitators
5. Protective Provisions for the Child Victims
6. Criminal Justice Tools for Investigation and Prosecution

Below are the letter and numeric (out of a best score of 102.5) for the Mid-Atlantic States for the recent three years:

<u>STATE</u>	<u>2015 GRADE</u>	<u>2016 GRADE</u>	<u>2017 GRADE</u>	<u>2018 GRADE</u>
Delaware	B - 84.5	B - 83	B – 83	B - 83
District of Columbia	C - 71	C – 71	C – 73	C - 73
Maryland	C - 77	C – 76	B – 80	B - 80
North Carolina	B - 80	B – 82	B – 85	A - 90
Virginia	D - 66	C – 71	C - 71	C - 71
West Virginia	D - 66	D - 68.5	B –82	B - 87

To review the detailed Report Card for your state online visit “[Shared Hope State Laws.](#)” The findings and recommendations of Shared Hope’s analysis can be used to advocate for improved state laws. This can be accomplished by writing to, talking to, visiting your state elected officials. They will act when they hear directly and personally from you, their local constituents.

For more information contact Ed Thomas at [edtho@comcast.net](mailto:edtho@comcast.net).