



**SENATOR JOHN PIPPY
2007-2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
PRIME SPONSORED BILL SUMMARY**

SENATE BILL 181

This legislation will increase the offense of trading, bartering, buying, selling, or dealing in infant children from a misdemeanor of the first degree (maximum of 5 years imprisonment) to a felony of the second degree (maximum of 10 years imprisonment).

Dealing in humanity is a heinous crime, and this type of offense needs to be punished more severely than the law currently prescribes. By comparison, the offense of endangering the welfare of children is currently considered a felony of the third degree if a course of conduct can be established, and is a misdemeanor of the first degree where there is no pattern of abuse. This bill is just one of many introduced in the General Assembly in recent years in order to crack down on crimes committed against children.