

2021 -- H 5270

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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A N A C T

RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- HOTELS--HUMAN TRAFFICKING
REPORTING AND PREVENTION ACT

Introduced By: Representatives Diaz, McNamara, Slater, Perez, Giraldo, Felix, Biah,
Tobon, S Lima, and Abney

Date Introduced: January 29, 2021

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Title 5 of the General Laws entitled "BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS"
2 is hereby amended by adding thereto the following chapter:

3 CHAPTER 14.1

4 THE HUMAN TRAFFICKING REPORTING AND PREVENTION ACT

5 **5-14.1-1. Definitions.**

6 As used in this chapter:

7 (1) "Hotel" shall mean any establishment defined in § 5-14-3.

8 (2) "Human trafficking" means the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of
9 labor or commercial sex act as defined in 22 USC § 7102 and the commission of an offense created
10 by §§ 11-67.1-3 through 11-67.1-7.

11 (3) "Human trafficking awareness training" means a training that includes the following
12 components:

13 (i) The definition of human trafficking and commercial exploitation of children;

14 (ii) Guidance on how to identify individuals at risk for trafficking;

15 (iii) Guidance on how to identify the signs of trafficking and individuals potentially
16 engaged in the act of trafficking;

17 (iv) Differences between labor and sex trafficking, specific to the hotel sector;

18 (v) Guidance on the role of hospitality employees in reporting and responding to this issue;

1 and

2 (vi) The contact information for the National Human Trafficking Hotline tollfree number
3 and text line or contact information for the local law enforcement.

4 (4) “Local law enforcement” means the local city or town police department or the Rhode
5 Island state police.

6 **5-14.1-2. Posting requirements.**

7 Every operator of a hotel shall post in a location conspicuous to employees human
8 trafficking awareness signage, printed in an easily legible font in English and any other language
9 spoken by at least ten percent (10%) of the employees.

10 **5-14.1-3. Policies and procedures for identifying and reporting.**

11 Every operator of a hotel shall implement procedures for the reporting of suspected human
12 trafficking to the National Human Trafficking Hotline or to local law enforcement and shall
13 implement a human trafficking prevention policy which shall apply to all employees.

14 **5-14.1-4. Recognition of human trafficking prevention efforts.**

15 (a) An owner, operator or employee of a hotel who complies in good faith with this chapter
16 shall not be liable for any act or omission arising out of or related to human trafficking committed
17 by a third-party unless the owner, operator or employee of the hotel knowingly assists the
18 commission of human trafficking.

19 (b) For the purposes of this chapter, a good faith effort shall mean that the hotel:

20 (1) Maintained signage as required by § 5-14.1-2; and

21 (2) Implemented a human trafficking awareness prevention policy as required in § 5-14.1-
22 3; and

23 (3) Conducted a training on human trafficking awareness in the twelve (12) months prior
24 to an alleged incident.

25 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2022.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- HOTELS--HUMAN TRAFFICKING
REPORTING AND PREVENTION ACT

1 This act would create the Human Trafficking Reporting and Prevention Act applicable to
2 hotels, requiring them to educate their employees about identifying, reporting and preventing
3 human trafficking, on their premises.

4 This act would take effect on January 1, 2022.

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