

2021 -- S 0408

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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

Introduced By: Senators Quezada, Lawson, Kallman, and Murray

Date Introduced: February 25, 2021

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

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 PREVENTION ACT

5 **5-14.1-1. Short Title.**

6 This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Human Trafficking Prevention Act".

7 **5-14.1-2. Definitions.**

8 (a) "Hotel" means any establishment defined in § 5-14-3.

9 (b) "Human trafficking" means the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of
10 labor or commercial sex act as defined in 22 U.S.C. § 7102.

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 and

1 (6) The contact information for the National Human Trafficking Hotline toll-free number
2 and text line or contact information for the local law enforcement.

3 (d) "Local law enforcement" means the local police department or Rhode Island state
4 police.

5 **5-14.1-3. Posting Requirements.**

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

9 **5-14.1-4. Policies and procedures for identifying and reporting.**

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

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

15 (a) An owner, operator or employee of a hotel who complies in good faith with this section
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 means that the hotel:

20 (1) Maintained signage as required by this chapter; and

21 (2) Implemented a human trafficking awareness prevention policy as required by this
22 chapter; 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

- 1 This act would require all hotels to make a good faith effort to post human trafficking
- 2 awareness signage and provide all employees with human trafficking awareness training.
- 3 This act would take effect on January 1, 2022.

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