

2025 -- H 5563

LC001986

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025

A N A C T

RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- THE HUMAN TRAFFICKING
PREVENTION NOTICE ACT

Introduced By: Representatives Dawson, McEntee, Furtado, Kazarian, and Boylan

Date Introduced: February 26, 2025

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The title of Chapter 5-14.1 of the General Laws entitled "The Human
2 Trafficking Prevention Notice Act" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 ~~CHAPTER 5-14.1~~

4 ~~The Human Trafficking Prevention Notice Act~~

5 CHAPTER 5-14.1

6 THE HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION NOTICE AND TRAINING ACT

7 SECTION 2. Section 5-14.1-1 of the General Laws in Chapter 5-14.1 entitled "The Human
8 Trafficking Prevention Notice Act" is hereby amended to read as follows:

9 **5-14.1-1. Definitions.**

10 As used in this chapter:

11 (1) "Department" means the department of business regulation

12 ~~(1)~~(2) "Hotel" shall mean any establishment defined in § 5-14-3.

13 ~~(2)~~(3) "Human trafficking" means the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type
14 of labor or commercial sex act as defined in 22 U.S.C. § 7102 and the commission of an offense
15 created by §§ 11-67.1-3 through 11-67.1-7.

16 (4) "Human trafficking awareness training" means training established or approved by the
17 department that includes, but is not limited to, the following components:

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

- 1 (ii) Guidance on how to identify individuals at risk for trafficking;
2 (iii) Guidance on how to identify the signs of trafficking and individuals potentially
3 engaged in the act of trafficking;
4 (iv) Differences between labor and sex trafficking, specific to the hotel sector;
5 (v) Guidance on the role of hospitality employees in reporting and responding to this issue;
6 and
7 (vi) The contact information for the national human trafficking hotline toll-free number
8 and text line or contact information for the local law enforcement agency.
9 (5) “Short-term rental property” means a residential unit used or offered for tourist or
10 transient use through a hosting platform, as such terms are defined in § 42-63.1-2.

11 SECTION 3. Chapter 5-14.1 of the General Laws entitled "The Human Trafficking
12 Prevention Notice Act" is hereby amended by adding thereto the following sections:

13 **5-14.1-3. Training; policies and procedures.**

14 (a) Every employee of a hotel and every operator of a short-term rental property in this
15 state shall be required to receive human trafficking awareness training within one hundred eighty
16 (180) days of employment or the first listing of a short-term rental property on a hosting platform,
17 and after the first year of employment or listing, annual human trafficking awareness training not
18 later than December 31.

19 (b) Every operator of a hotel or short-term rental property in this state shall implement
20 procedures and adopt policies for the reporting of suspected human trafficking to the national
21 human trafficking hotline or to a local law enforcement agency.

22 **5-14.1-3. Record keeping.**

23 (a) Any person who operates a hotel or short-term rental property shall maintain records of
24 employee or operator training. Such records shall be kept on file by the operator of the hotel or
25 short-term rental property for the period during which the employee is employed by the
26 establishment or the operator manages the short-term rental property listing, and for one year after
27 such employment or operation ends. A hotel or short-term rental property operator shall provide
28 records to the department within a reasonable amount of time, but no later than ten (10) business
29 days, after such request is made in writing.

30 SECTION 4. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2026.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

A N A C T

RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- THE HUMAN TRAFFICKING
PREVENTION NOTICE ACT

- 1 This act would require hotel employees and short-term rental property operators to
- 2 annually receive human trafficking awareness training.
- 3 This act would take effect on January 1, 2026.

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