

2025 -- S 0549 AS AMENDED

LC001712

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: Senators Dimitri, Ciccone, Burke, Thompson, Murray, LaMountain,
DiMario, and Urso
Date Introduced: February 26, 2025

Referred To: Senate Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

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

~~CHAPTER 5-14.1~~

~~The Human Trafficking Prevention Notice Act~~

CHAPTER 5-14.1

THE HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION NOTICE AND TRAINING ACT

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

5-14.1-1. Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

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

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

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

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

(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 **5-14.1-4. Record keeping.**

23 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. The operator of the premises shall maintain
3 records of the completed training.

4 This act would take effect on January 1, 2026.

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