

2020 -- S 2816

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

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A N A C T

RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- HOTELS

Introduced By: Senator Erin Lynch Prata

Date Introduced: March 12, 2020

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. Definitions.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3           **5-14.1-2. Posting Requirements.**

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

7           **5-14.1-3. Policies and procedures for identifying and reporting.**

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

12           **5-14.1-4. Recognition of human trafficking prevention efforts.**

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

17           (b) For the purposes of this chapter, a good faith effort means that the hotel:

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

19           (2) Implemented a human trafficking awareness prevention policy as required by this  
20 chapter; and

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

23           SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on January 1, 2021.

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EXPLANATION  
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
OF  
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RELATING TO BUSINESSES AND PROFESSIONS -- HOTELS

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- 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, 2021.

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