

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 1084 (Senator Lee)
Judicial Proceedings

Adult Entertainment Establishments - National Human Trafficking Resource
Center Hotline Information - Sign Posting Requirements

This bill requires an owner of an “adult entertainment establishment,” as defined by the bill, to post a National Human Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) hotline sign in each restroom of the establishment. Violators are subject to a civil penalty of up to a \$1,000 fine, and each restroom that does not have a sign is a separate violation. Existing enforcement provisions for truck stops and privately owned bus stations apply to adult entertainment establishments.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Potential minimal increase in general fund revenues due to the bill’s imposition of existing penalty provisions. State law enforcement can handle the bill’s requirements with existing resources.

Local Effect: Local and municipal law enforcement agencies can handle the bill’s requirements with existing resources.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: Chapters 576 and 577 of 2010 authorize law enforcement to issue a civil citation to require the posting of signs in lodging establishments where arrests leading to convictions for prostitution, solicitation of a minor, or human trafficking have occurred. The Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation was required to design the sign to include specific information and place it on its website. Violators are subject to a civil

penalty of up to a \$1,000 fine, but each guest room that does not have a sign is *not* a separate violation.

Chapters 491 and 492 of 2012 require the State Highway Administration and the business owner of a privately owned bus station or “truck stop” to post the same NHTRC sign in restrooms. Violators are subject to a civil penalty of up to a \$1,000 fine, and each restroom that does not have a sign is a separate violation.

Background: Human trafficking is an umbrella term used to describe the activities involved when someone obtains or holds a person in compelled service. Major forms of human trafficking include forced labor, sex trafficking, bonded labor, debt bondage, involuntary domestic servitude, forced child labor, child soldiers, and child sex trafficking. According to the U.S. Department of State’s 2010 Trafficking in Persons report, 12.3 million adults and children are in forced labor, bonded labor, and forced prostitution around the world, and 56% of these victims are women and girls. The report estimates that there is a \$32 billion annual trade for human trafficking.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) funds the NHTRC hotline, which is available to answer calls 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The NHTRC hotline provides callers with a wide range of services such as crisis intervention, urgent and nonurgent referrals, and anti-trafficking resources and technical assistance. Through the hotline, DHHS seeks to provide up-to-date resources on human trafficking; increase access to services for foreign U.S. citizens, including victims; and provide law enforcement and social service providers with tools to identify human trafficking victims in their communities.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation; Department of State Police; Maryland Department of Transportation; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; U.S. Department of State; Department of Legislative Services

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Analysis by: Stephen M. Ross

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510