

# Chapter 576

(Senate Bill 542)

AN ACT concerning

## ~~Health~~ Business Regulation – Lodging Establishments – National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline ~~– Posting of Information~~

FOR the purpose of ~~requiring the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to adopt certain regulations related to the posting of a certain notice regarding the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline;~~ requiring the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation to design a sign that contains certain information regarding the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline; requiring the sign to meet certain requirements and be placed on the Department’s website; requiring a lodging establishment to post a certain sign in certain places for a certain period of time if certain conditions are met; providing a certain penalty for the violation of a certain provision of this Act; and generally relating to the posting of lodging establishments and information regarding the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline ~~Hotline.~~

~~BY adding to~~  
~~Article – Health – General~~  
~~Section 24–213~~  
~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~  
~~(2009 Replacement Volume)~~

BY adding to  
Article – Business Regulation  
Section 15–207  
Annotated Code of Maryland  
(2004 Replacement Volume and 2009 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

### ~~Article – Health – General~~

#### ~~24–213.~~

~~(A) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS REQUIRING THE POSTING OF A NOTICE INFORMING INDIVIDUALS OF THE PHONE NUMBER FOR AND OTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESOURCE CENTER HOTLINE.~~

~~(B) THE REGULATIONS SHALL ESTABLISH:~~~~(1) THE BUILDINGS AND COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS WHERE THE NOTICE IS REQUIRED TO BE POSTED;~~~~(2) STANDARDS FOR THE SIZE AND FORMAT OF THE NOTICE;~~~~(3) THE INFORMATION REQUIRED TO BE INCLUDED IN THE NOTICE; AND~~~~(4) THE LANGUAGES IN WHICH THE NOTICE SHALL BE DISPLAYED.~~Article – Business Regulation15-207.(A) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DESIGN A SIGN THAT STATES THE FOLLOWING:“REPORT HUMAN TRAFFICKING: NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESOURCE CENTER – 1-888-373-7888. CALL FOR HELP IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW:

- IS BEING FORCED TO HAVE SEX WITHOUT CONSENT
- HAS HAD AN ID OR DOCUMENTS TAKEN AWAY
- IS BEING THREATENED BY OR IS IN DEBT TO AN EMPLOYER
- WANTS TO LEAVE A JOB BUT CANNOT FREELY DO SO.

TOLL-FREE. 24/7. CONFIDENTIAL. INTERPRETERS AVAILABLE.THIS SIGN IS REQUIRED UNDER STATE LAW.”(2) THE SIGN SHALL:(I) BE AT LEAST 3 BY 5 INCHES IN SIZE;(II) CONTAIN THE TEXT REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION IN ENGLISH, SPANISH, AND ANY OTHER LANGUAGES REQUIRED BY THE FEDERAL VOTING RIGHTS ACT;

(III) DRAW ATTENTION TO THE PHONE NUMBER OF THE NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESOURCE CENTER HOTLINE BY SHOWING THE PHONE NUMBER IN BOLD TYPE; AND

(IV) BE PLACED ON THE DEPARTMENT WEBSITE.

(B) (1) A STATE, COUNTY, OR MUNICIPAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY MAY ISSUE A CIVIL CITATION TO A LODGING ESTABLISHMENT REQUIRING IT TO POST PROMINENTLY IN EACH GUEST ROOM FOR 1 YEAR THE SIGN THAT IS IDENTICAL TO THE NOTICE REQUIRED TO BE PLACED ON THE WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, IF THE LODGING ESTABLISHMENT IS LOCATED ON PROPERTY WHERE ARRESTS LEADING TO CONVICTIONS OF PROSTITUTION, SOLICITATION OF A MINOR, OR HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNDER TITLE 11, SUBTITLE 13 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE HAVE OCCURRED.

(2) A STATE, COUNTY, OR MUNICIPAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY SHALL CONSIDER ANY ASSISTANCE IT RECEIVES FROM A LODGING ESTABLISHMENT IN AN INVESTIGATION LEADING TO A CONVICTION UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION IN DETERMINING WHETHER TO ISSUE A CITATION UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.

(C) (1) THE OWNER OF A LODGING ESTABLISHMENT THAT VIOLATES SUBSECTION (B)(1) OF THIS SECTION IS SUBJECT TO A CIVIL PENALTY NOT EXCEEDING \$1,000.

(2) EACH GUEST ROOM THAT DOES NOT HAVE A SIGN IS NOT A SEPARATE VIOLATION.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2010.

Approved by the Governor, May 20, 2010.