

Chapter 577

(House Bill 1322)

AN ACT concerning

Business Regulation – Lodging Establishments – National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline Information

FOR the purpose of 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~~ Department's website; requiring ~~an innkeeper~~ of 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 ~~penalties~~ penalty for the violation of a certain provision of this Act; and generally relating to lodging establishments and information regarding the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline.

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 – Business Regulation

15–207.

(A) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DESIGN A SIGN THAT STATES THE FOLLOWING:

~~“IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS BEING FORCED TO ENGAGE IN ANY ACTIVITY AND CANNOT LEAVE – WHETHER IT IS COMMERCIAL SEX, HOUSEWORK, FARM WORK, OR ANY OTHER ACTIVITY – CALL THE NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESOURCE CENTER HOTLINE AT 1 888 373 7888 TO ACCESS HELP AND SERVICES.~~

~~VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING ARE PROTECTED UNDER U.S. AND MARYLAND LAW. THE HOTLINE IS:~~

- ~~TOLL FREE, AVAILABLE 24/7~~
- ~~ANONYMOUS AND CONFIDENTIAL~~
- ~~OPERATED BY A NONPROFIT, NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION~~
- ~~ACCESSIBLE IN 170 LANGUAGES~~
- ~~ABLE TO PROVIDE HELP, REFERRAL TO SERVICES, TRAINING, AND GENERAL INFORMATION”.~~

~~(2) THE SIGN SHALL:~~

~~(i) BE AT LEAST 8.5 BY 11 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) AN INNKEEPER OF A LODGING ESTABLISHMENT SHALL POST PROMINENTLY IN EACH GUEST ROOM FOR 1 YEAR THE SIGN THAT IS PLACED ON THE WEBSITE OF THE DEPARTMENT UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION IF THE LODGING ESTABLISHMENT:~~

~~(1) HAS BEEN FOUND TO KEEP A COMMON NUISANCE UNDER § 5-605 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE; OR~~

~~(2) IS A LOCATION WHERE AN INDIVIDUAL HAS BEEN ARRESTED FOR PROSTITUTION, SOLICITATION OF A MINOR, OR HUMAN TRAFFICKING UNDER TITLE 11, SUBTITLE 13 OF THE CRIMINAL LAW ARTICLE.~~

~~(C) (1) A PERSON WHO VIOLATES SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION IS GUILTY OF A MISDEMEANOR AND, ON CONVICTION, IS SUBJECT TO A FINE NOT EXCEEDING \$1,000 OR IMPRISONMENT NOT EXCEEDING 10 DAYS, OR BOTH.~~

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

“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.