

Chapter 205

(House Bill 771)

AN ACT concerning

Health Occupations – Human Trafficking Awareness Training

FOR the purpose of requiring each health occupations board to allow an applicant to receive continuing education credits for completing a certain human trafficking awareness training program, adopt certain regulations, and conduct certain outreach related to continuing education credits for a certain human trafficking awareness training program; establishing requirements for the training program; and generally relating to human trafficking awareness training for health care practitioners.

BY adding to

Article – Health Occupations

Section 1–225.1

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

Article – Health Occupations**1–225.1.**

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION, “LOCAL UNIVERSITY” MEANS A PUBLIC OR PRIVATE INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE STATE WITH A PUBLIC HEALTH, LAW, OR SOCIAL WORK PROGRAM.

(2) “LOCAL UNIVERSITY” INCLUDES A PROGRAM WITHIN AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, SUCH AS THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SAFE CENTER FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS.

(B) EACH HEALTH OCCUPATIONS BOARD SHALL:

(1) ~~ADOPT REGULATIONS THAT ALLOW~~ ALLOW AN APPLICANT SEEKING LICENSE OR CERTIFICATE RENEWAL TO RECEIVE CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS FOR COMPLETING A HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS TRAINING PROGRAM DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION; ~~AND~~

(2) CONDUCT OUTREACH TO MAKE INDIVIDUALS REGULATED BY THE BOARD AWARE OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS TRAINING OPTIONS, INCLUDING BY PROVIDING INFORMATION IN GENERAL BOARD COMMUNICATIONS AND ON THE BOARD’S WEBSITE; AND

(3) ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION.

(c) A TRAINING PROGRAM FOR WHICH AN APPLICANT MAY RECEIVE CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL:

(1) BE APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT IN COLLABORATION WITH A LOCAL UNIVERSITY AND IN CONSULTATION WITH THE MARYLAND HUMAN TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROVIDE DIRECT SERVICES TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING SURVIVORS;

(2) BE AT LEAST 1 HOUR IN DURATION;

(3) BE READILY ACCESSIBLE AND PROVIDED TO AN INDIVIDUAL DESCRIBED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION FREE OF CHARGE; AND

(4) INCLUDE INSTRUCTION ON:

(i) THE DEFINITIONS AND FORMS OF SEX AND LABOR TRAFFICKING UNDER FEDERAL AND STATE LAW;

(ii) AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE MODEL;

(iii) THE PHYSICAL, BEHAVIORAL, AND EMOTIONAL INDICATORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING, PARTICULARLY THOSE PRESENTING IN A HEALTH CARE SETTING;

(iv) APPROPRIATE SCREENING PROTOCOLS AND DOCUMENTATION METHODS;

(v) MANDATORY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS UNDER STATE LAW AND ESTABLISHED PROTOCOLS FOR REPORTING SUSPECTED CASES OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING TO THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES, INCLUDING THE NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE; AND

(vi) AVAILABLE FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL RESOURCES AND SERVICES FOR SURVIVORS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

(a) On or before July 1, 2026, the Maryland Department of Health, in collaboration and consultation with required stakeholders, shall approve the training program required under § 1-225.1 of the Health Occupations Article, as enacted under Section 1 of this Act.

(b) On or before ~~October~~ January 1, 2026 ~~2027~~, each health occupations board shall adopt the regulations necessary to carry out required under § 1-225.1(b)(3) of the Health Occupations Article, as enacted by this Act.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June 1, 2026.

Approved by the Governor, April 28, 2026.