

HOUSE BILL 771

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6lr1643
CF 6lr1644

By: **Delegates Miller, Alston, Cullison, Guzzone, Hill, Lopez, McComas, Reilly, Rose, Turner, White Holland, and Woorman**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2026

Assigned to: Health

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Health Occupations – Human Trafficking Awareness Training**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring each health occupations board to adopt certain regulations
4 and conduct certain outreach related to continuing education credits for a certain
5 human trafficking awareness training program; establishing requirements for the
6 training program; and generally relating to human trafficking awareness training
7 for health care practitioners.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – Health Occupations

10 Section 1–225.1

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Health Occupations**

16 **1–225.1.**

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

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(B) EACH HEALTH OCCUPATIONS BOARD SHALL:

(1) ADOPT REGULATIONS THAT 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.

(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

1 TRAFFICKING TO THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES, INCLUDING THE NATIONAL
2 HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE; AND

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

5 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

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

10 (b) On or before October 1, 2026, each health occupations board shall adopt
11 regulations necessary to carry out this Act.

12 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June
13 1, 2026.