### **2021 JCRC SB 876 Business Regulation-Innkeepers-Re** Uploaded by: Bagwell, Ashlie



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# Testimony in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 876 – "Business Regulation - Innkeepers – Records and Human Trafficking Awareness Training" Finance Committee February 18, 2021

The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington (JCRC) serves as the public affairs and community relations arm of the Jewish community. We represent over 100 Jewish organizations and synagogues throughout Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. The JCRC is strongly committed to cultivating a society based on freedom, justice, and pluralism. We work tirelessly throughout the entire Greater Washington area to advocate for our agencies that serve the most vulnerable residents, support our Jewish day schools and community centers, and to campaign for important policy interests on behalf of the entire Jewish community.

The JCRC has a long history of strongly supporting efforts to address human trafficking in Maryland and we support efforts to not only provide assistance for victims of human trafficking but to criminalize all aspects of trafficking and appropriately punish perpetrators. We believe the Jewish community has a moral and ethical responsibility to combat modern day slavery in the U.S. and around the world.

Senate Bill 876 requires innkeepers, hotels and motels to maintain a computerized recordkeeping system of all guest transactions and receipts. It also requires all employees of these establishments to take an annual training program focusing on identification and reporting of human trafficking situations. This legislation could help cut down and even break the cycle of human trafficking if innkeepers, hotel and motels improved their recordkeeping and were taught to look for the right signs and reporting measures. For these reasons, we ask this committee to give a favorable report on SB 876.

### **SB876COMMITTEETESTIMONY.docx.pdf** Uploaded by: Jackson, Michael

MICHAEL A. JACKSON

Legislative District 27

Calvert, Charles and

Prince George's Counties

Judicial Proceedings Committee



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### THE SENATE OF MARYLAND ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

### TESTIMONY - SENATE BILL 876

### BUSINESS REGULATION – INNKEEPERS – RECORDS AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS TRAINING

## FINANCE COMMITTEE FEBRUARY 18, 2021

Chair Kelley, Vice Chair Feldman, and Members of the Senate Finance Committee:

Senate Bill 876 is a straight-forward piece of legislation designed to combat human trafficking in our communities and to equip hotel employees with the information necessary to recognize the signs of this crime.

This bill would require the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services (GOCPYVS) and the Maryland Department of Labor to develop an education training program offering guidance to employees of hotels on ways to recognize the signs associated with human trafficking. Additionally, and in an effort to ensure that authorities would have the tools necessary to track perpetrators of human trafficking related crimes, the bill would require innkeepers to maintain a computerized recordkeeping system of all guest receipts for a minimum of six months.

As someone who spent the majority of his professional career in law enforcement, and as someone who personally worked to stop these types of crimes as Prince George's County Sheriff, I am confident that this legislation will provide a means to protect some of those victimized by this hidden and heinous crime in our communities.

For the reasons listed above, I ask for a favorable report of Senate Bill 876.

### Maryland Catholic Conference\_FAV\_SB876.pdf Uploaded by: Sheahan, Molly



#### ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE † ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON † DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

### **February 18, 2021**

## Senate Bill 876 Business Regulation - Innkeepers - Records and Human Trafficking Awareness Training

#### **Senate Finance Committee**

**Position: SUPPORT** 

The Maryland Catholic Conference represents the public policy interests of the three Roman Catholic (arch)dioceses serving Maryland: the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Archdiocese of Washington, and the Diocese of Wilmington, which together encompass over one million Marylanders.

**Senate Bill 876** requires innkeepers to maintain a computerized recordkeeping system of all guest transactions and receipts, which shall be retained for at least six months. The bill also requires the Governor's Office for Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services to approve an educational training program and a refresher training program about human trafficking and requires innkeepers to provide the training annually to employees.

The Maryland Catholic Conference supports this bill because it educates those working in the lodging business on trafficking and aids law enforcement in their efforts to identify and end human trafficking. Calls to the National Human Trafficking Hotline show hotels and lodging establishments as frequent locations utilized by traffickers for both commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor. Maryland is also uniquely positioned to be a "hot spot" for human trafficking activity, due to the interstate highways that run through it, its close proximity to numerous large cities, and its ports of call and major international airports.

Pope Francis frequently condemns the horror of trafficking in persons, recently declaring, "Human trafficking is an open wound on the body of contemporary society, a scourge upon the body of Christ." We believe this bill would help alleviate some of this scourge in our state.

For these reasons, the Maryland Catholic Conference respectfully urges a favorable report for **SB 876**. Thank you for your consideration.

### SB 876 - Favorable w Amendments (2-18-2021).pdf Uploaded by: Starke, James



### BWI Airport - Arundel Mills

#### SB 876 – Favorable w Amendments

Business Regulations – Innkeepers
Records & Human Trafficking Awareness Training
Finance Committee
February 18, 2021

Dear Chairwoman Kelley and Members of the Committee:

Human trafficking is an abhorrent cancer to our society. This criminal activity has become more widespread and organized over the last few years; therefore, both the public and private sectors have partnered together to develop strategies to combat its existence.

The hotel industry has led the way in developing education and training programs for our staff members. These programs help our employees identify activity that could possibly be signs of human trafficking. With this knowledge, our employees become the eyes and hears of our hotels, and communities, to help fight this despicable crime.

The hotel industry whole-heartedly supports any efforts to combat human trafficking. In fact, all of the major brands have developed training programs that require their staff members to certify the following:

- a) Complete human trafficking training within a short period of time from being hired AND
- b) Recertify on an annual basis.

Training programs are also available to independent, non-branded hotels via the Maryland Hotel Lodging Association (MHLA) and/or American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA).

With this in mind, I respectfully ask that the committee submit a FAVORABLE report of SB 876 **with** an amendment that accepts/approves of existing training programs that are presently offered and implemented by the major hotel brands or MHLA/AHLA.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

James L. Starke, CHA General Manager

### **SB 876 - MDHTTF - SUPPORT.pdf** Uploaded by: Wallerstedt, Anne



**BILL NUMBER:** Senate Bill 876

**TITLE:** Business Regulation – Innkeepers – Records and

Human Trafficking Awareness Training

**COMMITTEE:** Finance

**HEARING DATE:** February 18, 2021

**POSITION:** Support

The Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force (MDHTTF) and its members respectfully request a favorable report for Senate Bill 876, as it will make a significant impact on the ability to combat human trafficking across the state.

Senate Bill 876 requires an innkeeper to maintain computerized records of guest transactions and receipts for at least six months, and requires the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services and the Department of Labor to approve educational training materials and programs related to the identification and reporting of suspected human trafficking. Further, all employees at lodging establishments in Maryland will be required to receive the abovementioned training annually.

MDHTTF supports efforts to dismantle human trafficking by strengthening laws prosecuting traffickers, providing services and rehabilitation to victims, and increasing awareness of the issue. Human trafficking is so insidious that it often occurs where we might not expect it – such as our own communities – and can be found in every corner of the state. Increased awareness and participation from the public is crucial to help end this practice. In fact, the largest number of calls coming from Maryland to the National Human Trafficking Hotline in 2019 were from those observing or suspecting trafficking<sup>1</sup>. Senate Bill 876 takes a very important step towards this goal by involving professionals who are not only members of our communities but also working in an industry with a large number of travelers and transient occupants. Lodging employees are uniquely poised to help in this effort.

**About MDHTTF:** Formed in 2007 by the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Attorney General of Maryland, and the State's Attorney for Baltimore City, MDHTTF serves as the lead investigative, prosecutorial, and victim services coordinating body for anti-human trafficking activity in the State of Maryland. MDHTTF has grown to include most law enforcement agencies in the State, all child-serving state agencies, the Federal Bureau of Investigations, Homeland Security Investigations, most local State's Attorney's Offices, and dozens of victim service agencies. MDHTTF is comprised of five committees – legislative, law enforcement, victim services, public awareness, and training. During this time, MDHTTF has grown a robust understanding of the issue of human trafficking in Maryland.

<sup>1</sup> https://humantraffickinghotline.org/state/maryland. Out of 187 requests for cases, 133 were to "Report a Trafficking Tip." Of the 533 contacts to the Human Trafficking Hotline, 118 were from a "Community Member," second only to victims of trafficking. 2019 is the most recent year data is available.

### Amendments to Human trafficking - SB 876.pdf Uploaded by: Plaut, Ari

February 18, 2021 Boston Plaut Law Offices On Behalf of Maryland Hotel & Lodging Association

### <u>Amendments to HB 338/ SB 876 – Business Regulation – Innkeepers – Records and Human</u> <u>Trafficking Awareness Training</u>

Amendment #1
On Page 2:
In Line 15, strike "AN"
Amendment #2
On Page 2:
In Line 16, strike "PROGRAM AND REFRESHER TRAINING PROGRAM" and replace with "PROGRAMS"
Amendment #3
On Page 2:
In line 22, strike "AND"
Amendment #4
On Page 2:
In Line 24, after "TRAFFICKING", insert "(III) DEFINING BOTH HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN;
(IV) THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN LABOR AND SEX TRAFFICKING SPECIFIC TO THE HOTEL SECTOR; AND

(V) THE ROLE OF HOSPITALITY EMPLOYEES IN REPORTING AND

RESPONDING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

Amendment #5

On Page 2:

In line 25, strike "ENSURE THAT" and insert "PROVIDE"

#### Amendment #6

On Page 2:

In line 26, strike "RECEIVE" and insert "WITH"

#### Amendment #7

On page 3:

Strike lines 1-2 in their entirety and insert "(3) THE ANNUAL TRAINING DESCRIBED IN SECTION B OF THIS SECTION FOR NEW EMPLOYEES SHALL OCCUR WITHIN 45 DAYS OF HIRING.

#### Amendment #8

On page 3:

Strike lines 1-2 in its entirety and insert "(D) AN INNKEEPER SHALL POST A SIGN ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS IN A LOCATION CONSPICUOUS TO EMPLOYEES".

#### Amendment #9

On Page 3:

In line 3, insert "(E) AN INNKEEPER SHALL ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING SUSPECTED HUMAN TRAFFICKING ACTIVITY AND IMPLEMENT A HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION POLICY FOR ITS EMPLOYEES".

#### Amendment #10

On Page 3:

In after Section (E), insert "SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, THAT THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT OCTOBER 1, 2021."

Submitted by: Ari M. Plaut, Esq. Boston Plaut Law Offices Contact: 410-323-7090

### **SB 876 - Human Trafficking Awareness - Incorp w.Am** Uploaded by: Plaut, Ari

### **SENATE BILL 876**

Senator Jackson Assigned to: Finance

### Business Regulation – Innkeepers – Records and Human Trafficking Awareness Training

FOR the purpose of requiring an innkeeper to maintain a certain record—keeping system of guest transactions and receipts; requiring that certain records be kept for a certain period; requiring the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services and the Maryland Department of Labor to approve a certain training program for identification and reporting of suspected human trafficking; providing certain requirements for a certain training program; requiring a certain innkeeper to ensure that certain employees receive certain training; requiring, on an annual basis, an innkeeper to make a certain certification to the Department; and generally relating to innkeepers and human trafficking.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments, Article – Business Regulation Section 15–201 Annotated Code of Maryland (2015 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement) BY adding to Article – Business Regulation Section 15–209 Annotated Code of Maryland (2015 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

#### **Article - Business Regulation**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

#### **SENATE BILL 876**

15-201.

- (a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.
- (b) "Innkeeper" means the owner, operator, manager, or keeper of a lodging establishment, or the agent of an owner, operator, manager, or keeper of a lodging establishment.

(c) "Lodging establishment" means an inn, hotel, motel, or other establishment that has at least four rooms available for a fee to transient guests for lodging or sleeping purposes.

**15-209.** 

- (A) (1) AN INNKEEPER SHALL MAINTAIN A COMPUTERIZED RECORD-KEEPING SYSTEM OF ALL GUEST TRANSACTIONS AND RECEIPTS.
- (2) THE RECORDS MAINTAINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION SHALL BE RETAINED BY THE INNKEEPER FOR NOT LESS THAN 6 MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THE CREATION OF THE RECORD.
- (B) (1) THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION, YOUTH, AND VICTIM SERVICES AND THE DEPARTMENT SHALL APPROVE AN EDUCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM AND A REFRESHER TRAINING PROGRAM PROGRAMS FOR THE ACCURATE AND PROMPT IDENTIFICATION AND REPORTING OF SUSPECTED HUMAN TRAFFICKING.
- (2) THE TRAINING PROGRAM SHALL INCLUDE A VIDEO PRESENTATION THAT OFFERS GUIDANCE TO EMPLOYEES OF INNKEEPERS ON:
  - (I) THE RECOGNITION OF POTENTIAL VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING; AND
  - (II) THE ACTIVITIES COMMONLY ASSOCIATED WITH HUMAN TRAFFICKING: ;
- (III) DEFINING BOTH HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN;
- (IV) THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN LABOR AND SEX TRAFFICKING SPECIFIC TO THE HOTEL SECTOR; AND
- (V) THE ROLE OF HOSPITALITY EMPLOYEES IN REPORTING AND RESPONDING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING.
- (C) (1) AN INNKEEPER SHALL ENSURE THAT PROVIDE ALL EMPLOYEES OF THE LODGING ESTABLISHMENT RECEIVE WITH THE ANNUAL TRAINING DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.

- (2) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2022, AND ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1 EACH YEAR THEREAFTER, AN INNKEEPER SHALL CERTIFY TO THE DEPARTMENT THAT ALL EMPLOYEES OF THE LODGING ESTABLISHMENT HAVE RECEIVED THE ANNUAL TRAINING PRESCRIBED BY THIS SECTION.
- (3) THE ANNUAL TRAINING DESCRIBED IN SECTION B OF THIS SECTION FOR NEW EMPLOYEES SHALL OCCUR WITHIN 45 DAYS OF HIRING.
- (D) AN INNKEEPER SHALL POST A SIGN ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS IN A LOCATION CONSPICUOUS TO EMPLOYEES.
- (E) AN INNKEEPER SHALL ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING SUSPECTED HUMAN TRAFFICKING ACTIVITY AND IMPLEMENT A HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION POLICY FOR ITS EMPLOYEES.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect 2 October 1, 2021.

### **SB 876 - MHLA - Rohrer - FWA.pdf** Uploaded by: Rohrer, Amy



### SB 876 - Support with Amendments Business Regulation-Innkeepers-Records and Human Trafficking Awareness Training Finance Committee - February 18, 2021

Dear Chairwoman Kelley and Members of the Committee:

The hotel industry has long recognized the critical role it plays in ending the scourge of human trafficking, and employee training among other techniques play an instrumental role in identifying, reporting and stopping this horrific crime at our hotels. The American Hotel & Lodging Association (AH&LA) has led industry efforts nationally with the "No Room for Trafficking" campaign that includes the goal of training every hotel employee. High quality training programs, developed with input from NGOs such as Polaris, ECPAT, BEST, and industry representatives, are available through hotel trade associations. In fact, the MHLA has partnered with BEST to provide such training at no cost to member hotel employees. Major hotel brands not only offer similar training but also mandate its completion by employees.

Proposed amendments, summarized below, have been submitted to the Committee by MHLA's lobbyist. If accepted, this bill would align human trafficking training requirements for Maryland's lodging industry with national initiatives already implemented voluntarily by multitudes of hotels across the state.

- 1. In section 15-209 (B) (1), line 16, delete "AN" and in line 17 delete "PROGRAM AND A REFRESHER TRAINING PROGRAM" and insert "PROGRAMS";
- 2. In section 15-209 (B) (2), add language to more clearly define components of training that may meet the requirements of this bill, to include:
  - a. The definition of human trafficking and commercial exploitation of children;
  - b. Differences between labor and sex trafficking, specific to the hotel sector;
  - c. Guidance on the role of hospitality employees in reporting and responding to this issue.
- 3. In section 15-209 (C) (1), line 26, delete "ENSURE THAT" and insert "PROVIDE" and in line 27 delete "RECEIVE" and insert "WITH";
- 4. A requirement to post human trafficking awareness signage in a location conspicuous to employees;
- A requirement for hotels to establish procedures for reporting suspected human trafficking activity and implement a human trafficking prevention policy that applies to all employees;
- 6. Allowance of 45 days for new hire employees to receive training.

Lastly, we believe the bill should apply to ALL lodging establishments, including short-term residential lodging. Human trafficking is not limited to traditional hotels and increased awareness across the entire industry would prove beneficial to efforts to eradicate human trafficking from all lodging establishments.

Thank you for your consideration.

Amy Rohrer, President & CEO