



BILL NO: House Bill 270
TITLE: Business Regulation - Innkeepers - Maintenance of Guest Records and Employee Human Trafficking Awareness Training and Policy
COMMITTEE: Economic Matters
HEARING DATE: February 2, 2022
POSITION: **SUPPORT**

The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) is the state domestic violence coalition that brings together victim service providers, allied professionals, and concerned individuals for the common purpose of reducing intimate partner and family violence and its harmful effects on our citizens. **MNADV urges the House Economic Matters Committee to issue a favorable report on HB 270.**

House Bill 270 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.

In addition to the power and control dynamics prominent in both forms of abuse, human trafficking intersects with domestic violence in other ways. Traffickers often are romantic partners or even the spouse of a victim. They may have a child together. MNADV is committed to efforts to dismantle human trafficking and address the root causes of power-based violence.

Increased awareness and participation from the public is crucial to help end human trafficking. House Bill 270 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 many travelers and transient occupants. Lodging employees are uniquely poised to help in this effort.

For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence urges a favorable report on HB 270.**