

MHLA
Maryland Hotel
Lodging Association

SB 91 – Favorable with Amendments

Business Regulation - Innkeepers – Maintenance of Guest Records and Employee Human Trafficking Awareness Training and Policy

February 4, 2022

Dear Chair Kelley and Honorable Members of the Finance 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 (AHLA) has led industry efforts nationally with the “No Room for Trafficking” campaign that includes the goal of training every hotel employee. High quality industry specific training programs, developed with input from NGOs such as Polaris, ECPAT-USA, and BEST (Businesses Ending Slavery and Trafficking), are widely available at no cost to hotels. Major hotel brands not only offer similar training but also mandate its completion by employees.

Proposed amendments have been submitted to the Committee by MHLA’s lobbyist. They are intended to align the proposed legislation with steps already taken by our members and ensure existing training programs will meet the requirements of this bill.

MHLA strongly encourages all hotels to commit to “No Room for Trafficking” and we believe passage of this legislation will help to achieve the goals set by this national campaign.

We appreciate your consideration of our proposed amendments and urge a favorable report on SB 91.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Rohrer
President & CEO