

# **The Human Trafficking Hub.pdf**

Uploaded by: Amy Blank

Position: FAV

## **Maryland is The Hub for Human Trafficking**

Human trafficking is the fastest growing criminal enterprise in the world, with an estimated 27 Million victims and \$150 billion in profits. While an estimated 14,000 -17,500 people are trafficked into the United States, 200,000 are from the United States. Traffickers predominately target women and girls, as young as 12 years of age, for labor and sexual exploitation. The intersectionality of sexism, racism, poverty, trauma, adultification, sexualization are all systemic conditions that allow women and girls of color to become easy targets for traffickers.

Baltimore is at the intersection of this issue. All major transportation thoroughfares (i.e.,the Port of Baltimore, I-95/I-70 bus stations and truck stops, BWI airport and Amtrak) conveniently merge into our hospitality destinations (i.e., the convention center, casinos, hotels, and ball parks), easily enabling human traffickers to entrap, transport, and exploit victims.

Women and girls forced into sex trafficking experience higher levels of anxiety, isolation, and trauma far beyond other crime victims. They sustain physical assaults that result in repeated broken bones, concussions, bruises, burns and starvation. Withholding birth control and gynecological care make them susceptible to life-long, and life-threatening reproductive diseases and injuries such as sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), HIV AIDS, unwanted pregnancies, miscarriages and infertility. Drug and alcohol addiction is also prevalent among victims of sex trafficking.

## **Legislation that Protects Victims and Targets Perpetrators**

The Maryland General Assembly is strategically poised to not only address human trafficking in state, but throughout the country. Marylands recent response to human trafficking has been to decriminalize adult prostitution, converting prison programs into treatment facilities for sexual, physical and psychological trauma, addiction, and transitional housing for survivors. Safe Harbor legislation will extend similar provisions for child victims of sex trafficking. However, the overwhelming majority of human traffickers and clients are not investigated, prosecuted or convicted," perpetuating this insidious problem.

According to the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force in 2014, the United States investigated 1,927 cases, prosecuted 253 defendants and convicted 174 traffickers. Law enforcement and States Attorneys need assistance from the hospitality industry to identify victims, and obtain evidence to prosecute traffickers and clients. Addressing this issue in the upcoming Legislative Session are Senator Michael Jackson and Delegate Eric Ebersole who will re-introduce legislation requiring innkeepers to maintain computerized records of all guest transactions and receipts for 18 months. Additionally, all employees will receive training to identify and report suspected human trafficking. This documentation can result in more investigations, prosecutions and convictions of traffickers and clients. As well, broadening awareness, identification and reporting will increase the rescue and recovery of victims.

# **Maryland Catholic Conference\_FAV\_SB91.pdf**

Uploaded by: Jenny Kraska

Position: FAV



ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE † ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON † DIOCESE OF WILMINGTON

**February 3, 2022**

**Senate Bill 91  
Business Regulation - Innkeepers -Maintenance of Guest Records and Employee Human  
Trafficking Awareness Training and Policy**

**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 91** 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 **Senate Bill 91**. Thank you for your consideration.

**BaltimoreCounty\_FAV\_SB0091.pdf**

Uploaded by: Joel Beller

Position: FAV



JOHN A. OLSZEWSKI, JR.  
*County Executive*

JOEL N. BELLER  
*Acting Director of Government Affairs*

JOSHUA M. GREENBERG  
*Associate Director of Government Affairs*

MIA R. GOGEL  
*Associate Director of Government Affairs*

**BILL NO.:**            **SB 91**

**TITLE:**                **Business Regulation – Innkeepers – Maintenance of Guest Records and Employee Human Trafficking Awareness Training and Policy**

**SPONSOR:**           **Senator Jackson**

**COMMITTEE:**       **Finance**

**POSITION:**         **SUPPORT**

**DATE:**                **February 3, 2022**

Baltimore County **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 91 – Business Regulation – Innkeepers – Maintenance of Guest Records and Employee Human Trafficking Awareness Training and Policy. This legislation would require managers of lodging establishments to train employees on the prevention, identification, and reporting of human trafficking and maintain a computerized record-keeping system for guests and receipts.

Human trafficking is a growing public health crisis that demands the attention of the Maryland government to protect all residents and visitors. Baltimore County has already taken steps to fight this crisis, instituting a human trafficking work group and hosting informational webinars to increase awareness and action. This ensures that all residents have the ability to become more informed and learn how they can intervene to stop trafficking. Joint action from the State will amplify efforts being undertaken by Baltimore County and jurisdictions throughout Maryland.

Senate Bill 91 furthers the fight against human trafficking by putting additional protections in place for those being trafficked through motels, hotels, and inns. This bill provides employees with the adequate training required to prevent, identify, and take action against criminals who partake in human trafficking. It also requires places of lodging to keep a computerized record-keeping system for all guests and receipts, which will assist in identifying perpetrators of sex trafficking.

Accordingly, Baltimore County requests a **FAVORABLE** report on Senate Bill 91. For more information, please contact Joel Beller, Acting Director of Government Affairs at [jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:jbeller@baltimorecountymd.gov).

# **VSAB Support Ltr Guest Records Human Trafficking S**

Uploaded by: Leslie Frey

Position: FAV



## VICTIM SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

February 3, 2022

The Honorable Delores Kelley  
Chair, Finance Committee  
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: Support – SB91 - Business Regulation - Innkeepers - Maintenance of Guest Records and Employee Human Trafficking Awareness Training and Policy

Dear Chairman Kelley:

Senate Bill 91 requires an innkeeper to establish and maintain a computerized record-keeping system for guest transactions and receipts as well as creating a requirement for the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services and the Maryland Department of Labor to approve educational training programs for the accurate and prompt identification and reporting of suspected human trafficking. It also requires an innkeeper to take certain actions to provide employees with training on the prevention, identification, and reporting of human trafficking.

The Montgomery County Victim Services Advisory Board advises the County Council and County Executive on assisting the needs of victims of a broad range of violent crimes, including rape, domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. The number and severity of sexual assault and domestic violence cases referred to the Montgomery County HHS Victim Assistance and Sexual Assault Program and the Abused Persons Program has continued to increase substantially during the pandemic, with more than 1800 requests for help in FY21 and 500 requests already received during the first quarter of FY 22. More than 2,500 domestic violence protective order petitions were filed in Montgomery County District Court in 2021. The severity of cases has also become more critical, with increases in homicides, domestic violence, sexual violence, and more reports of strangulations.

Also known as “modern slavery,” human trafficking is the illegal trade in human beings through recruitment or abduction by means of force, fraud, or coercion for the purposes of forced labor, debt bondage or sexual exploitation. According to the U.S. Department of States’ “2021 Trafficking in Persons Report,” misconceptions about human trafficking have helped fabrication and falsehoods run rampant through social media platforms and the public. This is immensely detrimental to organizations and individuals who are attempting to combat this very real and very serious problem. Senate Bill 91 will apprise and educate innkeepers’ and their staff on the intricacies of preventing, identifying, and reporting of human trafficking while also requiring record keeping. These small requirements and actions can make an immense impact in the fight against human trafficking.

VSAB asks the committee to issue a favorable report on Senate Bill 91.

Sincerely,

Neda Bolourian  
VSAB Member

Department of Health and Human Services

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# Trafficking - innkeepers - testimony - senate - 20

Uploaded by: Lisae C Jordan

Position: FAV



**Working to end sexual violence in Maryland**

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**Testimony Supporting Senate Bill 91**  
**Lisae C. Jordan, Executive Director & Counsel**  
February 3, 2022

The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA) is a non-profit membership organization that includes the State's seventeen rape crisis centers, law enforcement, mental health and health care providers, attorneys, educators, survivors of sexual violence and other concerned individuals. MCASA includes the CAAST project – the Coordinated Action Against Sex Trafficking. CAAST is a statewide project to develop services for survivors of sex trafficking. It includes a network of rape crisis centers, the Sexual Assault Legal Institute, and other service providers striving to create comprehensive services for sex trafficking survivors across the State of Maryland. MCASA represents the unified voice and combined energy of all of its members working to eliminate sexual violence. We urge the Finance Committee to report favorably on Senate Bill 91.

**Senate Bill 91 – Innkeepers and Human Trafficking Prevention**

Senate Bill 91 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, delineates the content of the training, and requires innkeepers to provide the training annually to employees. It also requires innkeepers to maintain a computerized recordkeeping system of all guest transactions and receipts, which shall be retained for at least six months. This assists with criminal investigations into trafficking. Hotels and lodging establishments are often used by traffickers for both commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor. This bill will help educate those working in the lodging business on trafficking and aids law enforcement in their efforts to identify and end human trafficking.

**The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault urges the  
Finance Committee to  
report favorably on Senate Bill 91**

**SB 91\_MNADV\_FAV.pdf**

Uploaded by: Melanie Shapiro

Position: FAV



**BILL NO:** Senate Bill 91  
**TITLE:** Business Regulation - Innkeepers - Maintenance of Guest Records and Employee Human Trafficking Awareness Training and Policy  
**COMMITTEE:** Finance  
**HEARING DATE:** February 3, 2022  
**POSITION:** **SUPPORT**

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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 Senate Finance Committee to issue a favorable report on SB 91.**

Senate Bill 91 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. Senate Bill 91 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.

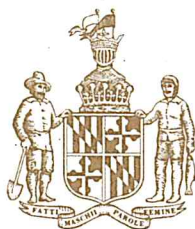
For the above stated reasons, the **Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence urges a favorable report on SB 91.**

# **JacksonSB91Testimony.pdf**

Uploaded by: Michael Jackson

Position: FAV

**MICHAEL A. JACKSON**  
*Legislative District 27*  
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Budget and Taxation Committee

*Subcommittees*

Pensions

Public Safety, Transportation, and  
Environment

**THE SENATE OF MARYLAND**  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

*District Office*  
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***TESTIMONY - SENATE BILL 91***

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

***FINANCE COMMITTEE***

***FEBRUARY 3, 2022***

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

Senate Bill 91 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 91.**

**SB 91 - MD Hotel Lodging Assoc - Rohrer - FWA.pdf**

Uploaded by: Amy Rohrer

Position: FWA

**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



**Amendments to HB270 SB91 updated.pdf**

Uploaded by: Ari Plaut

Position: FWA

February 1, 2022  
Maryland Hotel Lodging Association

### **Amendments to HB270/SB 91 – Markup**

#### Amendment #1

On page 3:

In line 6, strike “45” and substitute “**90**”.

Explanation: This amendment changes the number of days from 45 to 90 before a new hire is required to receive annual training. 90 days is optimal, as opposed to 45, because some of our industry workers are engaged in shift work *solely* around meetings/events. Therefore, they may only work a handful of days in a given period—90 ensures that there’s some sensible flexibility to train these part-time employees. The extra time also benefits the industry because of the labor shortage and allows some flexibility for training to occur during slower periods. Finally, this extra time allows the employees to gain experience so that they can be better equipped to identify signs of human trafficking.

#### Amendment #2

On page 3:

In line 14, strike “45” and substitute “**90**”.

Explanation: See above.

#### Amendment #3

On page 3:

In lines 20-21, strike “Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services” and substitute with “**Law Enforcement or the National Human Trafficking Hotline**”.

Explanation: This dictates the innkeeper to report suspected human trafficking directly to either law enforcement or a human trafficking reporting hotline available 24/7, rather than to the Governor’s Office of Crime, Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services.

#### Amendment #4

On page 3:

In line 22, strike “Develop and”

Explanation: It is important for an Innkeeper to implement but not necessarily “develop” a policy meeting the criteria outlined on p. 3, lines 24-28.

Submitted by:

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