

# 2024-02-08 HB148 Support in Concept.pdf

Uploaded by: Adam Spangler

Position: FAV

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**OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

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February 8, 2024

TO: The Honorable Marc Korman  
Chair, Environment and Transportation Committee

FROM: Adam Spangler  
Legislative Aide, Legislative Affairs, Office of the Attorney General

RE: HB148 - Department of Transportation - Human Trafficking Awareness, Training, and Response (See Someone, Save Someone Act)- **Support in Concept**

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The Office of Attorney General (OAG) supports the intent of House Bill 148, Delegate Ebersole's legislation to raise awareness of child exploitation and human trafficking amongst transportation sector employees and contractors. According to the National Human Trafficking Hotline, "[s]ex trafficking occurs at truck stops in the United States often in to forms, through commercial sex and through fake massage businesses."<sup>1</sup> Similarly, according to the American Association of Airport Executives, "[t]he first step in combating human trafficking is learning to spot warning signs, and travel industry employees should participate in training seminars that are tailored to them. Airport, airline and security personnel who have completed human trafficking awareness training are a vital first line of defense in the effort to prevent this crime."<sup>2</sup> House Bill 148 can greatly heighten awareness and, through associated reporting, improve public safety.

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<sup>1</sup> National Human Trafficking Hotline: Truck Stop-Based, available online at: <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/en/sex-trafficking-venuesindustries/truck-stop-based> (last visited Feb. 5, 2024).

<sup>2</sup> American Association of Airport Executives: Human Trafficking Research, available online at: <https://aaae.org/humantrafficking> (last visited Feb. 5, 2024).

While the OAG supports the intent of House Bill 148, we have concerns about implementation of the bill. Subsection (f) of the bill provide that “an employer or employee may not be held civilly or criminally liable for reporting or responding in good faith to a suspected incident of child exploitation or human trafficking.” The exemption from criminal liability for any “response” to a suspected incident, so long as in good faith, may be overbroad. The bill does not define what a “response” to an incident might entail.

Additionally, there is concern about requirements for contractors. As is, House Bill 148 is vague as to whether the requirements for “contractors” apply to just those with direct contracts with the State or would the bill also apply to subcontractors at the airport?

For the foregoing reason, we urge the Committee to favorably report House Bill 148.

cc: Committee Members

# **HB\_148\_FAV\_LateTestimony\_WomensCaucus**

Uploaded by: Delegate Edith J. Patterson

Position: FAV

DEL. EDITH J. PATTERSON, DISTRICT 28  
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DEL. LINDA K. FOLEY, DISTRICT 15  
*At Large*

DEL. JENNIFER A. WHITE HOLLAND, DISTRICT 10  
*At Large*

**WOMEN LEGISLATORS OF MARYLAND**  
**THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

February 15, 2024

The Honorable Marc Korman  
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee  
House Office Building, Room 251  
6 Bladen St  
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Chair Marc Korman,

On behalf of the majority of the Women Legislators of Maryland members, we are writing to support **HB148 Department of Transportation – Human Trafficking Awareness, Training, and Response (See Someone, Save Someone Act.)**.

This bill requires the Maryland Department of Transportation to develop and implement a certain training program for certain transportation-sector employees, taxicab drivers, and transportation network operators on the identification and reporting of human trafficking. This legislation ensures that certain employees of the Maryland Department of Transportation can identify the signs of human trafficking. The Women Legislators of Maryland fully support proactive measures of protection that can limit the number of human trafficking victims and therefore, offer full support for this bill.

Sincerely,

Delegate Edith J. Patterson  
President

**Maryland Catholic Conference\_FAV\_HB148.pdf**

Uploaded by: Diane Arias

Position: FAV



MARYLAND  
CATHOLIC  
CONFERENCE

**February 6, 2024**

**House Bill 148**

**Department of Transportation – Human Trafficking Awareness, Training, and  
Response (See Someone, Save Someone Act)  
House Environment and Transportation Committee**

**Position: Favorable**

The Maryland Catholic Conference (MCC) is the public policy representative of the three (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, which together encompass over one million Marylanders. Statewide, their parishes, schools, hospitals, and numerous charities combine to form our state's second largest social service provider network, behind only our state government.

**House Bill 148** requires the Maryland Department of Transportation to develop and implement a training program for certain transportation-sector employees on the identification and reporting of suspected child exploitation and human trafficking. The bill requires specific employees to complete the training program, and employers to certify this completion. The bill also requires pertinent employers, in consultation with the Department, to establish a procedure for reporting suspected incidents of child exploitation or human trafficking to appropriate staff, law enforcement, or the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline. Employers shall implement a child exploitation and human trafficking prevention policy for employees. The bill also calls for the Department to develop signage and require placement at certain locations to help provide information and resources for child exploitation and human trafficking victims. The legislation also requires frequent public service announcements in both English and Spanish at Transit Stations, Airports, Port Facilities, and Highway Rest Stops.

The Maryland Catholic Conference supports this bill because it educates those working in the transportation sector on trafficking and aids law enforcement in their efforts to identify and end human trafficking. It will also help the public become more aware of how they can help fight against trafficking. It will also help victims learn how they can report trafficking. Horribly, Maryland's central location has facilitated its development as both a pass-through state and a destination for human traffickers. Traffickers utilize many of Maryland's highways, especially Interstate-95, to connect victims to major east coast cities such as New York, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C. The Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force has identified incidents of sex trafficking at Maryland truck stops, and data from the National Human

Trafficking Resource Center (NHTRC) suggests that approximately 70 percent of human trafficking incidents occur in our nation's truck stops.<sup>1</sup> Three major airports, inexpensive bus transportation, train service along the east coast, large sporting events, and disposable income makes Maryland an increasingly attractive destination for traffickers.<sup>2</sup> Pope Francis frequently condemns the horror of trafficking in persons, declaring, "human trafficking is an open wound on the body of contemporary society, a scourge upon the body of Christ."<sup>3</sup>

This bill will go a long way in helping fight against child exploitation and human trafficking. For these reasons, the Maryland Catholic Conference asks for a favorable report on **HB 148**.

Thank you for your consideration.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.mdhumantrafficking.org/maryland>

<sup>2</sup> <https://goccp.maryland.gov/victim-services/human-trafficking/>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2014/april/documents/papa-francesco\\_20140410\\_tratta-persone-umane.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2014/april/documents/papa-francesco_20140410_tratta-persone-umane.html)



# **HB 148 Human Trafficking Letter.pdf**

Uploaded by: Essita Duncan

Position: FAV



[www.marylandwomen.org](http://www.marylandwomen.org)

# Maryland Commission for Women

A Commission of the Maryland Department of Human Services

51 Monroe Street, Ste. 1034 – Rockville, Maryland 20850  
240-306-5718  
[www.marylandwomen.org](http://www.marylandwomen.org)

February 6, 2024

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First Vice Chair*

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*Vacant,  
Executive Director*

*Tammy Wise  
Management Associate*

The Honorable Marc Korman, Chair  
The Honorable Regina T. Boyce, Vice Chair  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
Room 251  
House Office Building  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: HB 148 – Department of Transportation - Human Trafficking Awareness, Training, and Response (See Someone, Save Someone Act)

Dear Delegates Korman and Boyce and Members of the Environment and Transportation Committee:

The Maryland Commission for Women writes to you with respect to HB 148 – Maryland Department of Transportation – Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking Awareness, Training, and Response. Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking is an issue with which the Maryland Commission for Women (“MCW”) has long been concerned.

As you may know, the MCW was established in 1965 and was set in state law in 1971. An office of the Department of Human Services, the Commission is a 25-member advisory board whose duties outlined in its enabling legislation include: study the status of women in our state, recommend methods of overcoming discrimination, recognize women’s accomplishments and contributions, and provide informed advice to the executive and legislative branches of government on the issues concerning the women of our state. It is to fulfill this mandate that the Commission writes to you today.

Let us explain why this legislation is important: According to the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth and Victim Services: “Human trafficking is a horrible crime that continues to occur in Maryland and affects all parts of the State. Three major airports, inexpensive bus transportation, train service along the east coast, large sporting events and disposable income makes Maryland an attractive destination for traffickers.”

Although efforts have been made in the recent past to address certain issues relating to human trafficking, the MCW believes that more can and should be done where young people – and particularly children under the age of 18 – are victims. The Act would amend Maryland’s existing transportation laws in three critical ways:

- Help prevent child victims from further victimization by requiring mandatory training for transportation operators in order to improve the identification and reporting of suspected child exploitation and human trafficking.

- Development of procedures for reporting suspected child exploitation and human trafficking by transportation operators and implementation of a prevention policy.
- Providing a pathway to prevent any criminal or delinquent liability for reporting or responding to a suspected incident of child exploitation or human trafficking.

We ask that Maryland be a voice of leadership on this important issue.

The Maryland Commission for Women requests your support for the passage of this important legislation.

With very best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tawanda A. Bailey'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Tawanda A. Bailey, Chair  
Maryland Commission for Women

*(The positions expressed in this letter are those of the Commission for Women and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Governor or the Department of Human Services.)*

# Trafficking - truckers - testimony - house - 2024

Uploaded by: Lisae C Jordan

Position: FAV



**Working to end sexual violence in Maryland**

P.O. Box 8782  
Silver Spring, MD 20907  
Phone: 301-565-2277  
Fax: 301-565-3619

For more information contact:  
Lisae C. Jordan, Esquire  
443-995-5544  
[www.mcasa.org](http://www.mcasa.org)

**Testimony Supporting House Bill 148**  
**Lisae C. Jordan, Executive Director & Counsel**  
February 8, 2024

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 Sexual Assault Legal Institute (SALI) which provides direct legal services to survivors, including sex trafficking survivors. MCASA represents the unified voice and combined energy of all of its members working to eliminate sexual violence. We urge the Judiciary Committee to report favorably on House Bill 148.

**House Bill 148 – Department of Transportation**  
**Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking Prevention**

House Bill 148 requires the Department of Transportation to develop and implement a training program for transportation-sector employees on the identification and reporting of suspected child exploitation and human trafficking victims. Truck stops can provide child runaways and others at risk of trafficking with convenient stops, and also provide a place slightly secluded from public view. Truck stops can also provide opportunities to pick up, drop off, or stop for paid sex with children. These victims even have a name, and are referred to as "Lot Lizards" in the trucking community. Though most of the trucking industry is not involved in the sex trade, there unfortunately are consumers that fuel the trafficking. It has been reported that buyers use indicators such as stickers, flashing headlights, and code words such as "commercial" to indicate their interest. Massage parlors located at truck stops have also been known to be covers for sex trafficking businesses. This bill responds to these practices and will help educate those working in the transit business to identify and prevent child exploitation and human trafficking.

**The Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault urges the**  
**Judiciary Committee to**  
**report favorably on House Bill 148**

## **2.8.24 Maryland HOUSE Human Trafficking Testimony**

Uploaded by: Michele Blackwell

Position: FWA

## **Environment and Transportation Committee**

Chair, Delegate Marc Korman

Vice Chair, Delegate Regina T. Boyce

Thursday, February 8, 2024

*Written Testimony for Uber Technologies, Inc. on HB 148*

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Human trafficking is a violation of human rights that affects 50 million people around the world, with one in 3 victims being children. Maryland of course is not immune from this problem. Since 2007, the National Human Trafficking Hotline has identified 1,533 cases of human trafficking in Maryland, with nearly 3,000 victims. Awareness is an important component to fighting human trafficking.

Uber recognizes that as a technology company engaged in the transportation system, our company is in a powerful position to raise awareness around human trafficking and, with the state's help, make an impact.

Uber is already a national leader in this space. We have partnered with leading organizations like Polaris and ECPAT-USA to advocate for change and increase awareness about the signs of human trafficking for drivers who use the Uber platform. Thus, Uber is supportive of this effort to increase awareness of human trafficking among drivers active on the Uber platform in Maryland. We would, however, suggest some minor adjustments to the legislation to ensure that the requirement is appropriately tailored to the needs of drivers on Uber's platform.

First, and foremost, Uber would like to have the option to continue to offer our current human trafficking education to drivers. These materials are uniquely tailored to our industry and were developed closely with experts at Polaris, a nationally recognized human trafficking prevention organization. Allowing Uber to offer this education will help ensure that we can tailor the materials for rideshare drivers and adjust as needed. Moreover, Uber's current educational video meets the requirements currently outlined in HB148.

Second, we want to help ensure we are balancing the ability of drivers to get on the road with safety. Maryland is the only state in the country that requires individual licenses for rideshare drivers. As currently drafted, the bill would require that drivers complete the training before they take a first trip. This step is likely to add additional complexity to an already complex process - and will put another barrier in place which will make it difficult for drivers to earn. It also threatens to upend the hard work of the Maryland Public Service Commission, who processes TNO licenses in the state.

Thus, we suggest allowing drivers to obtain provisional licensure prior to completing the training, while requiring that they complete the training within 90 days of taking a trip. This will help balance safety, with the needs of drivers who rely on the Uber platform to earn.

Finally, we ask that the Committee modify the bill's language to clarify that certain individuals, including Transportation Network Operators are not employees. Currently, the legislation outlines certain training and certification requirements for employers. Nonetheless, groups such as TNOs and even independently-owned taxis in the state do not fall under this category. We recommend placing clarifying language in the bill about the requirements of these individuals.



**UNF HB0148 vmcavoy.pdf**

Uploaded by: vince mcavoy

Position: UNF

HB0148 Thursday, February 8, 2024 - 1:00 PM  
Delegate Ebersole

Department of Transportation - **Human Trafficking** Awareness, Training, and Response (See Someone, Save Someone Act)

This bill should specify that the bill aims to combat human trafficking based on the common use of the word. This bill should not be used as some flawed means to enlist taxi drivers to combat local prostitution. Taxi drivers are of no help for that combat, much less international human trafficking.

The revocation of taxi permits is kind of ridiculous....misses the mark.

See UNFav testimony for this bill last year.

humbly  
~vince

# **HB148\_Information\_PSC.pdf**

Uploaded by: Frederick Hoover

Position: INFO

FREDERICK H. HOOVER, JR.  
CHAIR

MICHAEL T. RICHARD  
ANTHONY J. O'DONNELL  
KUMAR P. BARVE  
BONNIE A. SUCHMAN



## PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

February 6, 2024

Chair Marc Korman  
Environment and Transportation Committee  
251 House Office Building  
Annapolis, MD 21401

**RE: HB 148 – INFORMATION – Department of Transportation - Human Trafficking Awareness, Training, and Response (See Someone, Save Someone Act)**

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

House Bill 148 requires the Maryland Department of Transportation (“MDOT”) to develop or identify and implement a training program for certain transportation–sector employees, taxicab drivers, and transportation network operators (“TNOs”) on the identification and reporting of suspected child exploitation and human trafficking victims. The Maryland Public Service Commission (“PSC”) has regulatory authority over transportation companies operating for-hire within the State of Maryland. This authority requires that the Commission, in general, issue permits to companies and vehicles upon receiving documented evidence of adherence to certain criteria related to insurance standards, inspections, vehicle age, etc.

This bill would add to the Public Utilities Article (“PUA”) by requiring a driver of a taxicab or a driver for a TNO, to complete MDOT’s training program prior to obtaining or renewing a license issued by the PSC. There are approximately 58,000 licensed TNOs currently in the State. It should be noted that this bill does not include the approximately 3,350 passenger-for-hire drivers licensed by the Commission that operate sedans, limousines, and other passenger-for-hire vehicles. Further, drivers that operate commercial motor vehicles transporting sixteen or more passengers do not need a passenger-for-hire license, but only a commercial motor vehicle driver’s license with the appropriate endorsements. The Commission has no role in the approval of commercial drivers’ licenses and therefore would not be captured under this legislation.

While the proposed training is important, this bill will increase the activities of the Commission staff, requiring additional resources as well as potential changes to COMAR. To implement the requirements of the bill, the PSC would need an Administrative Specialist I position, along with funding to modify the existing database used by the PSC, in order to integrate the completion of training into each driver’s record.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide information on HB 148. Please contact the Commission's Director of Legislative Affairs, Christina M. Ochoa, at [christina.ochoa1@maryland.gov](mailto:christina.ochoa1@maryland.gov) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frederick H. Hoover". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'F' and 'H'.

Frederick H. Hoover, Chair  
Maryland Public Service Commission

# **HB 148- Dept of Transportation- Human Trafficking**

Uploaded by: Jane Krienke

Position: INFO



Maryland  
Hospital Association

February 8, 2024

To: The Honorable Marc Korman, Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee

Re: Letter of Information - House Bill 148- Department of Transportation - Human Trafficking Awareness, Training and Response (See Someone, Save Someone Act)

Dear Chair Korman:

On behalf of the Maryland Hospital Association's (MHA) 62 member hospitals and health systems, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on House Bill 148.

Maryland's hospital employees often serve as the first line of defense to identify signs and symptoms of human trafficking.

Forensic nurse examiners (FNEs) across the state provide trauma informed care to survivors of sexual assault, abuse, neglect and interpersonal violence, and human trafficking. Most FNEs work in [hospital-based sexual assault forensic medical programs](#).

MHA partnered with the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force's medical subcommittee and the University of Maryland SAFE Center in 2020 to update the state's [Human Trafficking: Guidelines for Health Care Providers](#). MHA also partnered with the SAFE Center to train health care providers in hospitals across the state.

Sexual assault and human trafficking are widespread in Maryland and across the country. Education on prevention, identification, and response can empower individuals so they too can serve as a line of defense. We appreciate the opportunity to provide information on Maryland hospitals' response to support human trafficking training and prevention.

For more information, please contact:

Jane Krienke, Senior Legislative Analyst, Government Affairs

[Jkrienke@mhaonline.org](mailto:Jkrienke@mhaonline.org)

# **HB0148 - TSO - Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking**

Uploaded by: Patricia Westervelt

Position: INFO



February 8, 2024

The Honorable Marc Korman  
Chair, House Environment and Transportation Committee  
251 House Office Building  
Annapolis MD 21401

**Re: *Letter of Information – House Bill 148 – Department of Transportation - Human Trafficking Awareness, Training, and Response (See Someone, Save Someone Act)***

Dear Chair Korman and Committee Members:

The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) offers the following letter of information for the Committee's consideration on House Bill 148.

House Bill 148 would require MDOT to develop and implement a training program on the identification and reporting of suspected child exploitation and human trafficking victims. This training would be required for MDOT employees and persons employed under State contracts who provide transit services. The training would also be required for taxicab drivers and transportation network operators (TNOs). House Bill 148 would further require frequent public service announcements with safety information pertaining to the subject matter at transit stations, airports, port facilities, and highway rest stops.

MDOT recognizes the importance of human trafficking awareness and has implemented trainings for both MDOT employees and other transportation-sector workers. For example, at BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport, many MDOT and private employees require a MDOT-issued credential which is contingent upon completion of a video-based human trafficking training. Other training opportunities on these topics are periodically offered at other MDOT modes and by various service providers contracting with the State.

Existing MDOT employee training programs within The Secretary's Office and each MDOT mode could be leveraged to develop and deliver mandatory, Department-wide training focused on child exploitation and human trafficking. However, the specific training video requirements enumerated in House Bill 148 are likely beyond MDOT's current capabilities and would thus increase the associated time and costs of compliance. MDOT would also need to consider relevant training programs and materials available through federal agencies—including the Department of Transportation (USDOT), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and the Department of Justice (DOJ)—to ensure consistency with existing programs and established best practices.

The Honorable Marc Korman  
Page Two

The application of the requirements in House Bill 148 with respect to personnel outside the Department, may pose some challenges. Contractors doing business with the State in the environments specified, including small businesses, will be required to ensure their employees receive mandated training. Personnel costs relating to such training are unknown at this time but would be borne by those businesses, which may in turn adjust their pricing to cover those additional costs. It should also be noted that MDOT does not regulate either taxi companies or transportation network companies (TNCs) such as Uber and Lyft, which would complicate the implementation of House Bill 148. As such, both the delivery and tracking of training for these groups by MDOT may be challenging.

The cost to implement the requirements for the development of trainings and associated materials, public service announcements, as well as the potential liability for failing to report human trafficking could be significant.

The Maryland Department of Transportation respectfully requests the Committee consider this information during its deliberations of House Bill 148.

Respectfully submitted,

Pilar Helm  
Director of Government Affairs  
Maryland Department of Transportation  
410-865-1090