

Chapter 487

(House Bill 270)

AN ACT concerning

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

FOR the purpose of requiring innkeepers to establish and maintain a certain record-keeping system for guest transactions and receipts; requiring the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services and the Maryland Department of Labor to approve certain training programs regarding human trafficking; requiring innkeepers to take certain actions to provide employees with training on the prevention, identification, and reporting of human trafficking; 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 2021 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Business Regulation
Section 15–209 and 15–210
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2015 Replacement Volume and 2021 Supplement)

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

Article – Business Regulation

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) AN INNKEEPER SHALL ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A COMPUTERIZED RECORD-KEEPING SYSTEM OF ALL GUEST TRANSACTIONS AND RECEIPTS.

(B) A RECORD MAINTAINED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION SHALL BE RETAINED BY THE INNKEEPER FOR NOT LESS THAN 6 MONTHS AFTER THE DATE OF THE CREATION OF THE RECORD.

15-210.

(A) (1) THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION, YOUTH, AND VICTIM SERVICES AND THE DEPARTMENT SHALL APPROVE EDUCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR THE ACCURATE AND PROMPT IDENTIFICATION AND REPORTING OF SUSPECTED HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

(2) A TRAINING PROGRAM APPROVED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION MUST INCLUDE A VIDEO PRESENTATION THAT:

(I) DEFINES:

1. EXPLOITATION OF A CHILD; AND
2. HUMAN TRAFFICKING; AND

(II) OFFERS GUIDANCE TO EMPLOYEES OF INNKEEPERS ON:

1. RECOGNIZING POTENTIAL VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING;
2. THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN LABOR AND SEX TRAFFICKING THAT ARE SPECIFIC TO THE HOTEL INDUSTRY;
3. ACTIVITIES COMMONLY ASSOCIATED WITH HUMAN TRAFFICKING; AND
4. THE ROLE OF EMPLOYEES IN REPORTING AND RESPONDING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

(B) (1) AN INNKEEPER SHALL PROVIDE A NEW EMPLOYEE OF THE LODGING ESTABLISHMENT WITH THE ANNUAL TRAINING DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION WITHIN ~~45~~ 90 DAYS AFTER THE DATE THE EMPLOYEE IS HIRED.

(2) (I) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2023, AND EACH OCTOBER 1 THEREAFTER, AN INNKEEPER SHALL CERTIFY TO THE DEPARTMENT THAT ALL EMPLOYEES OF THE LODGING ESTABLISHMENT HAVE RECEIVED THE ANNUAL TRAINING PRESCRIBED BY THIS SECTION.

(II) THE REQUIREMENT UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH DOES NOT APPLY TO AN EMPLOYEE FOR WHOM FEWER THAN ~~45~~ 90 DAYS HAVE ELAPSED SINCE THE DATE THE EMPLOYEE WAS HIRED.

(C) AN INNKEEPER SHALL:

(1) ESTABLISH A PROCEDURE FOR REPORTING POTENTIAL INSTANCES OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING BY:

(I) AN EMPLOYEE TO THE INNKEEPER; OR

(II) THE INNKEEPER TO ~~THE~~:

1. LAW ENFORCEMENT; OR

2. THE NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESOURCE CENTER HOTLINE; AND

~~3. THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME PREVENTION, YOUTH, AND VICTIM SERVICES;~~

(2) ~~DEVELOP AND~~ IMPLEMENT A HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION POLICY FOR THE INNKEEPER'S EMPLOYEES THAT INCLUDES HOW TO:

(I) RECOGNIZE POTENTIAL VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING;

(II) RESPOND TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO MAY BE OR IS A VICTIM OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING; AND

(III) CONNECT AN INDIVIDUAL WHO MAY BE OR IS A VICTIM OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING WITH ANY AVAILABLE RESOURCES; AND

(3) POST PROMINENTLY THE SIGN DEVELOPED BY THE DEPARTMENT UNDER § 15-207 OF THIS SUBTITLE IN A LOCATION CONSPICUOUS TO THE INNKEEPER'S EMPLOYEES.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2022.

Enacted under Article II, § 17(c) of the Maryland Constitution, May 29, 2022.