



**BILL NUMBER:** SB 742

**TITLE:** Labor and Employment – Fair Recruitment and Transparency Act

**COMMITTEE:** Finance

**HEARING DATE:** February 27, 2020

**POSITION:** SUPPORT

---

The Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force (MDHTTF) supports Senate Bill 742. Each year, MDHTTF takes on initiatives to support the identification of survivors, the prosecution of traffickers, and the betterment of state law to reflect these realities. However, until last year, there was no criminal labor trafficking statute in Maryland, so there remains a significant lack of data collection and information sharing about those who are most at risk from being exploited in situations that may arise to the severity of labor trafficking.

The National Human Trafficking Hotline, which takes calls on reported incidents of human trafficking and refers them to law enforcement, has reported hundreds of cases of trafficking of foreign nationals in the past decade. Additionally, as stronger state and federal laws are enacted, civil and criminal suits are expected to increase with regards to labor trafficking in Maryland. What is worrisome, however, is the inability to know how many more people may currently be at risk or already trafficked. It is the position of MDHTTF that Senate Bill 742, in tandem with Maryland's new labor trafficking statute, takes a reasonable incremental approach to addressing this issue.

The MDHTTF appreciates your consideration and respectfully requests a favorable report on Senate Bill 742.

**About MDHTTF:** Formed in 2007 by the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Attorney General of Maryland, and the State's Attorney for Baltimore City, MDHTTF serves as the lead investigative, prosecutorial, and victim services coordinating body for anti-human trafficking activity in the State of Maryland. MDHTTF has grown to include most law enforcement agencies in the State, all child-serving state agencies, the Federal Bureau of Investigations, Homeland Security Investigations, most local State's Attorney's Offices, and dozens of victim service agencies. MDHTTF is comprised of five committees – legislative, law enforcement, victim services, public awareness, and training. During this time, MDHTTF has grown a robust understanding of the issue of human trafficking in Maryland.