



BWI Airport – Arundel Mills

SB 876 – Favorable w Amendments

**Business Regulations – Innkeepers
Records & Human Trafficking Awareness Training
Finance Committee
February 18, 2021**

Dear Chairwoman Kelley and Members of the Committee:

Human trafficking is an abhorrent cancer to our society. This criminal activity has become more widespread and organized over the last few years; therefore, both the public and private sectors have partnered together to develop strategies to combat its existence.

The hotel industry has led the way in developing education and training programs for our staff members. These programs help our employees identify activity that could possibly be signs of human trafficking. With this knowledge, our employees become the eyes and hears of our hotels, and communities, to help fight this despicable crime.

The hotel industry whole-heartedly supports any efforts to combat human trafficking. In fact, all of the major brands have developed training programs that require their staff members to certify the following:

- a) Complete human trafficking training within a short period of time from being hired AND
- b) Recertify on an annual basis.

Training programs are also available to independent, non-branded hotels via the Maryland Hotel Lodging Association (MHLA) and/or American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA).

With this in mind, I respectfully ask that the committee submit a FAVORABLE report of SB 876 **with** an amendment that accepts/approves of existing training programs that are presently offered and implemented by the major hotel brands or MHLA/AHLA.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

James L. Starke, CHA
General Manager