



Substitute Senate Bill No. 116

Public Act No. 26-98

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PREVENTION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section:

(1) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Consumer Protection;

(2) "Department" means the Department of Consumer Protection;

(3) "Hotel, motel, inn or similar lodging" means any commercial establishment in this state where sleeping accommodations are offered to transient guests for compensation;

(4) "Operator" means any person doing business in this state who owns or operates a hotel, motel, inn or similar lodging; and

(5) "Person" means any individual, association, corporation, limited liability company, partnership, trust or other legal entity.

(b) (1) On and after January 1, 2027, each operator shall register with the Department of Consumer Protection in a form and manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Consumer Protection. Each operator seeking an initial registration under this subdivision shall submit to the

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department, in a form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, (A) an initial registration form that includes (i) the operator's name, business address, telephone number and electronic mail address, (ii) the name, business address, telephone number and electronic mail address of an individual who will serve as the operator's main contact person for the department, (iii) the address of each hotel, motel, inn or similar lodging owned or operated by the operator, (iv) information sufficient to demonstrate, to the commissioner's satisfaction, that the operator is in compliance with the provisions of sections 44-4 to 44-6, inclusive, of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and section 54-234a of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and (v) any other information required by the commissioner for the purposes of this section, and (B) a nonrefundable initial registration fee in the amount of (i) fifty dollars for each hotel, motel, inn or similar lodging owned or operated by the operator that has fewer than fifteen guest rooms, or (ii) two hundred dollars for each hotel, motel, inn or similar lodging owned or operated by the operator that has at least fifteen guest rooms.

(2) Each initial registration issued under subdivision (1) of this subsection shall expire on December thirty-first of the year in which such initial registration was issued, and may be renewed for additional one-year periods upon submission of a registration renewal form in the form and manner, and payment of a nonrefundable registration renewal fee in the amount, set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection for an initial registration.

(c) On and after January 1, 2027, the Commissioner of Consumer Protection, or the commissioner's authorized agent, shall have the power to examine, copy and audit, as the commissioner or such agent deems necessary and proper, the records maintained by an operator to ensure that such operator is in compliance with the provisions of sections 44-4 to 44-6, inclusive, of the general statutes, as amended by this act, and section 54-234a of the general statutes, as amended by this

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act. The commissioner, or the commissioner's authorized agent, shall have access to, and may enter and inspect, each hotel, motel, inn or similar lodging, and each location where records relating thereto are kept, as may be necessary for the commissioner or such agent to exercise the commissioner's or such agent's powers under this section.

Sec. 2. Section 44-4 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) As used in this section, "hotel, motel, inn or similar lodging" and "operator" have the same meanings as provided in section 1 of this act.

(b) The operator of [each] a hotel, motel, inn or similar lodging shall maintain a record-keeping system of all guest transactions and receipts. All records maintained pursuant to this section shall be retained by the operator of [such] the hotel, motel, inn or similar lodging for not less than six months from the date of creation of the record.

(c) Any operator who violates the provisions of subsection (b) of this section shall be subject to a civil penalty imposed by the Department of Consumer Protection in the amount of one thousand dollars per violation, provided the amount of all civil penalties imposed on an operator under this subsection shall not exceed an aggregate amount of five thousand dollars for the calendar year in which such violations occurred.

Sec. 3. Section 44-5 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) As used in this section, "hotel, motel, inn or similar lodging" and "operator" have the same meanings as provided in section 1 of this act.

(b) The operator of [each] a hotel, motel, inn or similar lodging shall ensure that each employee of [such] the hotel, motel, inn or similar lodging [receive] receives training at the time of hire on the (1)

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recognition of potential victims of human trafficking, and (2) activities commonly associated with human trafficking. In addition, such operator shall conduct ongoing awareness campaigns for employees on the activities commonly associated with human trafficking.

(c) On or before October [1, 2017, and] first, annually, [thereafter,] the operator of [each] a hotel, motel, inn or similar lodging shall certify that each employee of [any such establishment] the hotel, motel, inn or similar lodging has received the training prescribed by subsection (b) of this section in [each] such employee's personnel file.

(d) Any operator who violates the provisions of subsection (b) or (c) of this section shall be subject to a civil penalty imposed by the Department of Consumer Protection in the amount of one thousand dollars per violation, provided the amount of all civil penalties imposed on an operator under this subsection shall not exceed an aggregate amount of five thousand dollars for the calendar year in which such violations occurred.

Sec. 4. Section 44-6 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) As used in this section, "hotel, motel, inn or similar lodging" and "operator" have the same meanings as provided in section 1 of this act.

(b) When offering or providing a room that includes sleeping accommodations, no operator of a hotel, motel, inn or similar lodging may offer or provide a financial discount or benefit for such room that is based upon an hourly rate or an occupancy period that is for a term of twelve hours or less.

(c) Any operator who violates the provisions of subsection (b) of this section shall be subject to a civil penalty imposed by the Department of Consumer Protection in the amount of one thousand dollars per violation, provided the amount of all civil penalties imposed on an

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operator under this subsection shall not exceed an aggregate amount of five thousand dollars for the calendar year in which such violations occurred.

Sec. 5. Section 54-234a of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2026*):

(a) (1) The operator of any (A) establishment that provides massage services for a fee; (B) publicly or privately operated highway service plaza; (C) [hotel, motel, inn or similar lodging; (D)] public airport, as defined in section 15-74a; [(E)] (D) acute care hospital emergency room; [(F)] (E) urgent care facility; [(G)] (F) station offering passenger rail service or passenger bus service; [(H)] (G) business that sells or offers for sale materials or promotes performances intended for an adult-only audience; [(I)] (H) employment agency, as defined in section 31-129, that offers personnel services to any other operator described in this subdivision; [(J)] (I) establishment that provides services performed by a nail technician, as defined in section 19a-231; [or (K)] (J) establishment that provides services performed by an esthetician, as defined in section 20-265a; or (K) hotel, motel, inn or similar lodging, and (2) each person who holds an on-premises consumption permit for the retail sale of alcoholic liquor pursuant to title 30, shall post the notice developed pursuant to subsection (b) of section 54-222 in plain view in a conspicuous location where labor and services are provided or performed, tickets are sold and other transactions, including sales, are to be carried on.

(b) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to any person who holds an on-premises consumption permit for the retail sale of alcoholic liquor pursuant to title 30 that consists of only one or more of the following: (1) A caterer, boat, military, charitable organization, special club, temporary liquor or temporary beer permit, or (2) a manufacturer permit for a farm winery, a manufacturer permit for beer, manufacturer permits for beer and brew pubs, or any other

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manufacturer permit issued under title 30.

(c) (1) Any operator or person who fails to comply with [the provisions of] any provision of subparagraphs (A) to (J), inclusive, of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section or subdivision (2) of subsection (a) of this section shall pay a civil penalty of one hundred dollars for a first violation and two hundred fifty dollars for any subsequent violation, imposed by the appropriate authority. [L]

(2) Any operator who fails to comply with the provisions of subparagraph (K) of subdivision (1) of subsection (a) of this section shall pay a civil penalty of one thousand dollars per violation imposed by the Department of Consumer Protection, provided the amount of all civil penalties imposed on an operator under this subdivision shall not exceed an aggregate amount of five thousand dollars for the calendar year in which such violations occurred.

(3) Each civil penalty imposed under subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection shall be in addition to any proceedings for suspension or revocation of a license, permit or certificate that the appropriate authority may initiate under any other provision of law.