
OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 116 (File 169, as amended by Senate "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PREVENTION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

SUMMARY

Beginning January 1, 2027, this bill requires owners or operators of hotels, motels, inns, or similar lodgings to annually register with the Department of Consumer Protection (DCP). An initial registration expires on December 31 of the year it is issued. The initial and renewal registration fee is \$50 for each of the owner's or operator's hotels, motels, inns, or similar lodgings with less than 15 guest rooms and \$200 for each with 15 or more guest rooms.

The bill allows DCP to determine how registration occurs, but a registration application must include the:

1. name, business address, phone number, and email address of the owner or operator and main contact person and
2. address of each of the owner's or operator's hotels, motels, inns, or similar lodgings.

The application must also include any other related information DCP requires and information showing the owner's or operator's compliance with the laws that:

1. require them to keep record of guest transactions and receipts (CGS § 44-4),
2. require them to train new employees and provide them with ongoing awareness campaigns about recognizing potential human trafficking victims and activities commonly associated with human trafficking (operators must certify that employees received this training in their personnel files) (CGS § 44-5),

3. prohibit them from offering or providing financial discounts or benefits based on an hourly rate or occupancy for up to 12 hours (CGS § 44-6), and
4. require them to post a notice in a conspicuous location about services for human trafficking victims and anti-trafficking telephone hotlines (CGS § 54-234a(a)).

Beginning January 1, 2027, the bill authorizes DCP to examine, copy, audit, and enter locations to access owner or operator records to ensure compliance with the laws described above. It also allows DCP to impose a \$1,000 civil penalty per violation, up to \$5,000 in a calendar year, for violations of the laws described above on record keeping, training, and financial discounts (CGS §§ 44-5 to 44-6). It increases the civil penalty for hotels, motels, inns, and similar lodgings violating the notice posting law to this same amount, in place of the current civil penalty which continues to apply to others violating the notice posting law (\$100 for a first violation and \$250 for a subsequent violation) (CGS § 54-234a).

*Senate Amendment "A" replaces the underlying bill, which would have (1) required the Department of Revenue Services to post the names and addresses of hotel, lodging house, and bed and breakfast operators that paid state use taxes; (2) authorized a municipality's chief executive officer (CEO) to examine, audit, and enter locations to access operator records to ensure compliance with certain laws; and (3) permitted a municipality to adopt an ordinance authorizing its CEO to issue orders prohibiting operations due to a violation of any of these same laws.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

COMMITTEE ACTION

General Law Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/11/2026)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 52 Nay 1 (04/17/2026)

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 41 Nay 0 (04/24/2026)