
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2320

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By House Consumer Protection & Business (originally sponsored by Representatives Leavitt, Van Werven, Orwall, Eslick, Barkis, Shewmake, Lovick, Harris, Sells, Kilduff, Tarleton, Fey, Irwin, Wylie, Doglio, Pellicciotti, Kloba, and Riccelli)

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring training on human trafficking;
2 amending RCW 70.62.260; adding a new section to chapter 70.62 RCW;
3 and creating a new section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that human
6 trafficking is a serious problem in the United States and in the
7 state of Washington. Polaris project, the largest anti-human
8 trafficking organization in the United States, hosts the national
9 human trafficking hotline. Since the hotline's inception in 2007,
10 over fifty thousand human trafficking cases have been discovered. In
11 2018, the hotline identified over twenty-three thousand survivors of
12 human trafficking nationally. Human trafficking is an international
13 problem that will continue to exploit the most vulnerable individuals
14 in a community if proper training and identification support is not
15 provided to the community at large.

16 (2) The legislature also recognizes that human trafficking is
17 prevalent within hotels and motels across the country and in
18 Washington. In 2018, eighty-one percent of the active sex trafficking
19 cases in the United States involved a victim who was compelled to
20 provide a commercial sexual act at a hotel. In 2017, forty-five
21 percent of youth victims surveyed reported having been exploited in

1 hotels. There is evidence to suggest that training can be an
2 effective way of raising awareness about human trafficking. According
3 to the Washington-based anti-trafficking group businesses ending
4 slavery and trafficking, hoteliers who received human trafficking
5 awareness training reported a significant increase in the likelihood
6 that they would call law enforcement if they suspected trafficking.

7 (3) It is the intent of the legislature to work toward the goal
8 of ridding hotels and other places of accommodation in Washington of
9 human trafficking.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 70.62
11 RCW to read as follows:

12 (1) A transient accommodation shall provide annual training
13 regarding human trafficking to each of its employees.

14 (2) Training must be provided to all employees no later than
15 January 1, 2021, and to new employees no later than ninety days after
16 they begin their employment.

17 (3) The training required under this section must include, at a
18 minimum, the following:

19 (a) The definition of human trafficking and commercial
20 exploitation of children, and the difference between sex trafficking
21 and labor trafficking;

22 (b) Content that is culturally responsive and includes
23 information about implicit cultural bias;

24 (c) Guidance specific to the public lodging sector concerning how
25 to identify individuals who may be victims of human trafficking
26 including how implicit bias may interfere with the accurate
27 identification of suspected victims of human trafficking;

28 (d) Guidance concerning the role of the employees in
29 appropriately responding to suspected human trafficking, and the
30 potential harms of involving law enforcement without the consent of
31 the suspected victim; and

32 (e) The contact information of appropriate agencies, including a
33 national human trafficking hotline telephone number and the telephone
34 numbers of appropriate local law enforcement agencies.

35 (4) By January 1, 2021, every operator of a transient
36 accommodation shall post in a location conspicuous to employees
37 signage regarding human trafficking awareness, printed in an easily
38 legible font in English and any other language spoken by at least ten
39 percent of the employees.

1 (5) By January 1, 2021, every operator of a transient
2 accommodation shall implement procedures for the voluntary reporting
3 of suspected human trafficking to the national human trafficking
4 hotline or to a local law enforcement agency, and a policy to act as
5 a guide for all employees on human trafficking prevention.

6 (6) Contents of the training and copies of the signage must be
7 made available for inspection, upon request by the department.

8 **Sec. 3.** RCW 70.62.260 and 2004 c 162 s 1 are each amended to
9 read as follows:

10 (1) (a) No person shall operate a transient accommodation as
11 defined in this chapter without having a valid license issued by the
12 department. Applications for a transient accommodation license shall
13 be filed with the department sixty days or more before initiating
14 business as a transient accommodation. All licenses issued under the
15 provisions of this chapter shall expire one year from the effective
16 date.

17 (b) The department may not renew or issue a license to an
18 applicant without first receiving written certification from the
19 applicant that the human trafficking training requirements under
20 section 2 of this act regarding training, signage, and procedures for
21 reporting have been met.

22 (2) All applications for renewal of licenses shall be either: (a)
23 Postmarked no later than midnight on the date the license expires; or
24 (b) if personally presented to the department or sent by electronic
25 means, received by the department by 5:00 p.m. on the date the
26 license expires.

27 (3) A licensee that submits a license renewal application in
28 accordance with this section and the rules and fee schedule adopted
29 under this chapter shall be deemed to possess a valid license for the
30 year following the expiration date of the expiring license, or until
31 the department suspends or revokes the license pursuant to RCW
32 70.62.270.

33 (4) The license of a licensee that fails to submit a license
34 renewal application in accordance with this section, and the rules
35 and fee schedule adopted under this chapter, shall become invalid on
36 the thirty-fifth day after the expiration date, unless the licensee
37 shall have corrected any and all deficiencies in the renewal
38 application and paid a penalty fee as established by rule by the
39 department before the thirty-fifth day following the expiration date.

1 An invalid license may be reinstated upon reapplication as an
2 applicant for a new license under subsection (1) of this section.
3 (5) Each license shall be issued only for the premises and
4 persons named in the application.

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