

HOUSE BILL 148

R2

4lr0791

HB 1053/23 – JUD

(PRE-FILED)

By: **Delegates Ebersole, Allen, Attar, Atterbeary, Bagnall, Boyce, Fair, Foley, Guyton, Hill, Hinebaugh, Kaufman, McCaskill, Pasteur, Pena–Melnik, Pruski, Ruth, Solomon, Terrasa, Toles, Woods, Wu, and Ziegler**

Requested: October 2, 2023

Introduced and read first time: January 10, 2024

Assigned to: Judiciary

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Department of Transportation – Human Trafficking Awareness, Training, and**
3 **Response**
4 **(See Someone, Save Someone Act)**

5 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Department of Transportation to develop or
6 identify and implement a certain training program for certain transportation–sector
7 employees, taxicab drivers, and transportation network operators on the
8 identification and reporting of suspected human trafficking victims; prohibiting the
9 Public Service Commission from issuing or renewing a taxicab driver’s license or
10 issuing a transportation network operator’s license unless the applicant has
11 completed the training program; requiring a holder of a transportation network
12 operator’s license on a certain date to complete the training program by a certain
13 date, subject to license suspension; requiring certain transportation–sector
14 employers to certify that certain employees have completed the training program;
15 requiring certain transportation–sector employers to establish procedures for
16 reporting suspected human trafficking to certain entities and to implement a certain
17 human trafficking prevention policy; prohibiting certain employers, employees,
18 taxicab drivers, or transportation network operators from being held civilly or
19 criminally liable for reporting or responding to in good faith a suspected incident of
20 human trafficking; requiring the Department to require frequent public service
21 announcements with safety information for trafficking victims at certain locations;
22 and generally relating to human trafficking awareness, training, and response.

23 BY adding to
24 Article – Public Utilities
25 Section 10–208.1
26 Annotated Code of Maryland
27 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Public Utilities
Section 10–404(a)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Transportation
Section 2–113
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2020 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Public Utilities

10–208.1.

**THE COMMISSION MAY NOT ISSUE OR RENEW A TAXICAB DRIVER’S LICENSE
UNLESS THE APPLICANT HAS COMPLETED THE TRAINING PROGRAM ON THE
IDENTIFICATION AND REPORTING OF SUSPECTED HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROVIDED
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION UNDER § 2–113 OF THE
TRANSPORTATION ARTICLE.**

10–404.

(a) (1) An operator may not provide transportation network services unless
the Commission has authorized the operator to operate on a provisional basis or has issued
a valid temporary or permanent transportation network operator’s license to provide
transportation network services.

(2) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS SECTION,
THE COMMISSION MAY NOT ISSUE A TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT TRANSPORTATION
NETWORK OPERATOR’S LICENSE OR AUTHORIZE OPERATION ON A PROVISIONAL
BASIS UNLESS THE APPLICANT HAS COMPLETED THE TRAINING PROGRAM ON THE
IDENTIFICATION AND REPORTING OF SUSPECTED HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROVIDED
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION UNDER § 2–113 OF THE
TRANSPORTATION ARTICLE.

Article – Transportation

2–113.

1 (A) IN THIS SECTION, “TRANSIT SERVICE” AND “TRANSIT STATION” HAVE
2 THE MEANINGS STATED IN § 7–101 OF THIS ARTICLE.

3 (B) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO:

4 (1) AN EMPLOYEE WHO IS:

5 (I) A STATE EMPLOYEE WHO WORKS AT A TRANSIT STATION,
6 AIRPORT, PORT FACILITY, OR HIGHWAY REST STOP;

7 (II) A STATE EMPLOYEE WHO PROVIDES TRANSIT SERVICE; OR

8 (III) EMPLOYED UNDER A CONTRACT WITH THE STATE TO
9 PROVIDE TRANSIT SERVICE;

10 (2) AN EMPLOYER OF AN EMPLOYEE DESCRIBED IN ITEM (1) OF THIS
11 SUBSECTION;

12 (3) A TAXICAB DRIVER; AND

13 (4) A TRANSPORTATION NETWORK OPERATOR.

14 (C) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

15 (I) DEVELOP OR IDENTIFY AND IMPLEMENT A TRAINING
16 PROGRAM, INCLUDING A CURRICULUM, ON THE IDENTIFICATION AND REPORTING
17 OF SUSPECTED HUMAN TRAFFICKING; AND

18 (II) ADMINISTER THE TRAINING PROGRAM TO ALL EMPLOYEES
19 AND CONTRACT EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT, TAXICAB DRIVERS, AND
20 TRANSPORTATION NETWORK OPERATORS.

21 (2) THE TRAINING PROGRAM SHALL INCLUDE A VIDEO
22 PRESENTATION THAT:

23 (I) DEFINES HUMAN TRAFFICKING; AND

24 (II) OFFERS GUIDANCE TO EMPLOYEES, CONTRACT
25 EMPLOYEES, TAXICAB DRIVERS, AND TRANSPORTATION NETWORK OPERATORS ON
26 THE IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND
27 PROTOCOLS FOR REPORTING SUSPECTED HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

(D) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2024, AND EACH OCTOBER 1 THEREAFTER, EACH EMPLOYER SHALL CERTIFY TO THE DEPARTMENT THAT ALL THE EMPLOYER'S EMPLOYEES HAVE COMPLETED THE TRAINING PROGRAM.

(2) AN EMPLOYER SHALL PROVIDE A NEW EMPLOYEE WITH THE TRAINING REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION WITHIN 90 DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF HIRE.

(E) EACH EMPLOYER, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT, SHALL:

(1) ESTABLISH A PROCEDURE FOR EMPLOYEES, CONTRACT EMPLOYEES, TAXICAB DRIVERS, AND TRANSPORTATION NETWORK OPERATORS TO REPORT SUSPECTED INCIDENTS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING TO APPROPRIATE SECURITY STAFF, LAW ENFORCEMENT, OR THE NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESOURCE CENTER HOTLINE; AND

(2) IMPLEMENT A HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION POLICY FOR EMPLOYEES, CONTRACT EMPLOYEES, TAXICAB DRIVERS, AND TRANSPORTATION NETWORK OPERATORS BY PROVIDING INFORMATION ON HOW TO:

(I) RECOGNIZE POTENTIAL VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING;

(II) RESPOND TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHO MAY BE OR IS A VICTIM OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING; AND

(III) CONNECT AN INDIVIDUAL WHO MAY BE OR IS A VICTIM OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING WITH AVAILABLE RESOURCES.

(F) AN EMPLOYER, AN EMPLOYEE, A CONTRACT EMPLOYEE, A TAXICAB DRIVER, OR A TRANSPORTATION NETWORK OPERATOR MAY NOT BE HELD CIVILLY OR CRIMINALLY LIABLE FOR REPORTING OR RESPONDING IN GOOD FAITH TO A SUSPECTED INCIDENT OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

(G) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REQUIRE FREQUENT PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS WITH SAFETY INFORMATION FOR HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS TO BE MADE, IN BOTH ENGLISH AND SPANISH, AT TRANSIT STATIONS, AIRPORTS, PORT FACILITIES, AND HIGHWAY REST STOPS.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2024.