

SENATE BILL 203

R2

3lr1461
CF 3lr1460

By: **Senator Jackson**

Introduced and read first time: January 20, 2023

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Department of Transportation – Child Exploitation and Human**
3 **Trafficking Awareness, Training, and Response**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Department of Transportation to develop and
5 implement a certain training program for certain transportation–sector employees
6 on the identification and reporting of suspected child exploitation and human
7 trafficking victims; requiring certain transportation–sector employers to certify that
8 certain employees have completed the training program; requiring certain
9 transportation–sector employers to establish procedures for reporting suspected
10 child exploitation and human trafficking to certain entities and to implement a
11 certain child exploitation and human trafficking prevention policy; prohibiting
12 certain employers or employees from being held civilly or criminally liable for
13 reporting or responding to in good faith a suspected incident of child exploitation or
14 human trafficking; requiring the Department to develop a sign displaying
15 information and resources for child exploitation and human trafficking victims and
16 requiring the sign to be displayed at certain locations; requiring the Department to
17 require frequent public service announcements with safety information for child
18 exploitation and human trafficking victims at certain locations; and generally
19 relating to child exploitation and human trafficking awareness, training, and
20 response for transportation–sector employees.

21 BY adding to
22 Article – Transportation
23 Section 2–113
24 Annotated Code of Maryland
25 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

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

28 **Article – Transportation**

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 2-113.

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

4 (B) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO:

5 (1) AN EMPLOYEE WHO IS:

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

8 (II) EMPLOYED UNDER A CONTRACT WITH THE STATE,
9 INCLUDING HOSPITALITY EMPLOYEES, WHO WORKS AT A TRANSIT STATION,
10 AIRPORT, PORT FACILITY, OR HIGHWAY REST STOP;

11 (III) A STATE EMPLOYEE WHO PROVIDES TRANSIT SERVICE; OR

12 (IV) EMPLOYED UNDER A CONTRACT WITH THE STATE TO
13 PROVIDE TRANSIT SERVICE; AND

14 (2) AN EMPLOYER OF AN EMPLOYEE DESCRIBED IN ITEM (1) OF THIS
15 SUBSECTION.

16 (C) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL:

17 (I) DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A TRAINING PROGRAM,
18 INCLUDING A CURRICULUM, ON THE IDENTIFICATION AND REPORTING OF
19 SUSPECTED CHILD EXPLOITATION AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING; AND

20 (II) ADMINISTER THE TRAINING PROGRAM TO ALL EMPLOYEES
21 OF THE DEPARTMENT.

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

24 (I) DEFINES CHILD EXPLOITATION AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING;
25 AND

26 (II) OFFERS GUIDANCE TO EMPLOYEES ON THE
27 IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL VICTIMS OF CHILD EXPLOITATION AND HUMAN

1 TRAFFICKING AND PROTOCOLS FOR REPORTING SUSPECTED CHILD EXPLOITATION
2 AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

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

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

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

11 (1) ESTABLISH A PROCEDURE FOR REPORTING SUSPECTED
12 INCIDENTS OF CHILD EXPLOITATION OR HUMAN TRAFFICKING TO APPROPRIATE
13 SECURITY STAFF, LAW ENFORCEMENT, OR THE NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING
14 RESOURCE CENTER HOTLINE; AND

15 (2) IMPLEMENT A CHILD EXPLOITATION AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING
16 PREVENTION POLICY FOR EMPLOYEES BY PROVIDING INFORMATION ON HOW TO:

17 (I) RECOGNIZE POTENTIAL VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING;

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

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

22 (F) AN EMPLOYER OR EMPLOYEE MAY NOT BE HELD CIVILLY OR
23 CRIMINALLY LIABLE FOR REPORTING OR RESPONDING IN GOOD FAITH TO A
24 SUSPECTED INCIDENT OF CHILD EXPLOITATION OR HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

25 (G) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP A SIGN DISPLAYING INFORMATION
26 AND RESOURCES FOR CHILD EXPLOITATION AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS
27 AND REQUIRE THE SIGN TO BE DISPLAYED AT TRANSIT STATIONS, AIRPORTS, PORT
28 FACILITIES, AND HIGHWAY REST STOPS.

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

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
2 October 1, 2023.