

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH
PUBLIC ACT SUMMARY



PA 26-98—sSB 116

General Law Committee

Appropriations Committee

Judiciary Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PREVENTION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

SUMMARY: Beginning January 1, 2027, this act 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 act 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 records of guest transactions and receipts,
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),
3. prohibit them from offering or providing financial discounts or benefits based on an hourly rate or occupancy for up to 12 hours, and
4. require them to post a notice in a conspicuous location about services for human trafficking victims and anti-trafficking telephone hotlines.

Beginning January 1, 2027, the act 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. 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 prior civil penalty which continues to apply to others violating the notice posting law (\$100 for a first violation and \$250 for a subsequent violation).

The act also makes technical and conforming changes.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

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BACKGROUND

Related Act

PA 26-26, § 7, requires the Department of Children and Families (DCF) to develop and provide a mandatory training program for its employees about human trafficking and how to interact with victims.

PA 26-70 also includes a DCF training requirement and a number of other changes related to preventing and responding to human trafficking.