

Chapter 492

(House Bill 607)

AN ACT concerning

National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline Information – Sign Posting Requirements

FOR the purpose of requiring the business owner of a privately owned bus station or truck stop located in the State to post in restrooms in a certain manner a certain sign that provides National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline information; requiring a certain agency that determines a certain violation has occurred to provide a certain notice to the business owner of a bus station or truck stop or the business owner's agent; subjecting a business owner of a bus station or truck stop that violates the sign posting requirement to a certain civil penalty if certain signs are not posted within a certain period of time after the business owner receives a certain notice; specifying that, for each restroom in which the business owner fails to post a sign in accordance with this Act, the business owner is subject to a separate civil penalty; requiring the State Highway Administration to post in a certain manner a certain sign that provides National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline information in the restrooms at rest areas within the right-of-way of any interstate or State highway; defining a certain term; and generally relating to sign posting requirements for National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline information.

BY adding to

Article – Business Regulation
Section 19–103
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2010 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Transportation
Section 8–655
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2008 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

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

Article – Business Regulation

19–103.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, “TRUCK STOP” MEANS A FACILITY:

(1) THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF WHICH IS TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO LONG-HAUL TRUCK DRIVERS; AND

(2) THAT PROVIDES:

(I) SHOWER FACILITIES TO THE TRUCK DRIVERS FOR A FEE; OR

(II) PARKING FOR THE TRUCK DRIVERS’ VEHICLES.

(B) (1) THE OWNER OF A PRIVATELY OWNED BUS STATION OR TRUCK STOP SHALL POST THE NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESOURCE CENTER HOTLINE INFORMATION SIGN DESCRIBED IN § 15-207 OF THIS ARTICLE IN EACH RESTROOM OF THE BUS STATION OR TRUCK STOP.

(2) A SIGN REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE POSTED:

(I) ON THE INSIDE OF EACH STALL DOOR IN THE RESTROOM; OR

(II) ON THE BACK OF THE DOOR AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE RESTROOM.

(C) (1) AN AGENCY THAT ENFORCES THIS SECTION AND DETERMINES THAT A VIOLATION OF THIS SECTION HAS OCCURRED SHALL NOTIFY THE BUSINESS OWNER OF THE BUS STATION OR TRUCK STOP, OR THE BUSINESS OWNER’S AGENT, OF THE VIOLATION.

(2) IF THE BUSINESS OWNER OF THE BUS STATION OR TRUCK STOP DOES NOT POST SIGNS AS REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION WITHIN 24 HOURS AFTER RECEIVING THE NOTICE REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE BUSINESS OWNER IS SUBJECT TO A CIVIL PENALTY NOT EXCEEDING \$1,000.

(3) FOR EACH RESTROOM IN WHICH A BUSINESS OWNER FAILS TO POST A SIGN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION, THE BUSINESS OWNER IS SUBJECT TO A SEPARATE CIVIL PENALTY.

Article – Transportation

8-655.

(A) THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL POST THE NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESOURCE CENTER HOTLINE INFORMATION SIGN DESCRIBED IN § 15-207 OF THE BUSINESS REGULATION ARTICLE IN EACH RESTROOM AT A REST AREA WITHIN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY OF AN INTERSTATE OR STATE HIGHWAY.

(B) A SIGN REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE POSTED:

(1) ON THE INSIDE OF EACH STALL DOOR IN THE RESTROOM; OR

(2) ON THE BACK OF THE DOOR AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE RESTROOM.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2012.

Approved by the Governor, May 22, 2012.