
SENATE BILL 6356

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2020 Regular Session

By Senators Padden, Kuderer, Holy, Dhingra, and Wilson, L.

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) Guidance specific to the public lodging sector concerning how
23 to identify individuals who may be victims of human trafficking;

24 (c) Guidance concerning the role of the employees in responding
25 to suspected human trafficking; and

26 (d) The contact information of appropriate agencies, including a
27 national human trafficking hotline telephone number and the telephone
28 numbers of appropriate local law enforcement agencies.

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

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

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

3 (1) (a) No person shall operate a transient accommodation as
4 defined in this chapter without having a valid license issued by the
5 department. Applications for a transient accommodation license shall
6 be filed with the department sixty days or more before initiating
7 business as a transient accommodation. All licenses issued under the
8 provisions of this chapter shall expire one year from the effective
9 date.

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

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

20 (3) A licensee that submits a license renewal application in
21 accordance with this section and the rules and fee schedule adopted
22 under this chapter shall be deemed to possess a valid license for the
23 year following the expiration date of the expiring license, or until
24 the department suspends or revokes the license pursuant to RCW
25 70.62.270.

26 (4) The license of a licensee that fails to submit a license
27 renewal application in accordance with this section, and the rules
28 and fee schedule adopted under this chapter, shall become invalid on
29 the thirty-fifth day after the expiration date, unless the licensee
30 shall have corrected any and all deficiencies in the renewal
31 application and paid a penalty fee as established by rule by the
32 department before the thirty-fifth day following the expiration date.
33 An invalid license may be reinstated upon reapplication as an
34 applicant for a new license under subsection (1) of this section.

35 (5) Each license shall be issued only for the premises and
36 persons named in the application.

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