



FROM	NAME & TITLE	Henry Raymond, Finance Director 	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Bureau of the Budget and Management Research Room 432, City Hall (410) 396-4941		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill #18-0296 -- National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline Information Sign Posting		

DATE:

TO

The Honorable President and
Members of the City Council
Room 400, City Hall

November 13, 2018

Attention: Ms. Natawna Austin

The Department of Finance is herein reporting on City Council Bill #18-0296, introduced for the purpose of adding Subtitle 42 to Article 15 of the City Code, requiring that certain businesses post a National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline information sign in designated areas; requiring certain reports; defining certain terms; and establishing certain penalties.

Background:

The Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force is the State’s primary organization that works to prevent trafficking, protect victims by providing them with the services they need, prosecute traffickers, and partner with a variety of organizations to eradicate human trafficking from our communities.

Trafficked individuals have few opportunities to be alone and away from their traffickers. Strategically locating trafficking hotline signs in locations that are accessible for the trafficked individual means that these individuals have access to the national hotline for a brief moment and can make a call for help.

Human trafficking prevention signs are to be posted within adult-entertainment businesses, food service facilities, hotels, massage establishments, and on the premises of licensed construction contracting businesses providing services pursuant to a permit issued by the Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development.

Duty to enforce this legislation will rest upon the Baltimore City Board of Liquor License Commissioners (with regard to adult-entertainment businesses), the Department of Health (with regard to food service facilities and massage establishments), and the Department of Housing and Community Development (with regard to licensed construction contracting services and hotels). On or before June 30th of each calendar year – the last day of the fiscal year – the Commissioners of the Baltimore City Health Department and the Department of Housing and Community Development shall each prepare and submit to the Mayor and City Council an annual report detailing compliance with this legislation.

Analysis:

The Department of Finance does not expect that any significant revenue will be generated from the addition of Subtitle 42 to Article 15 of the City Code. Moreover, Finance believes that the operating budget impact on each agency for enforcing compliance may be absorbed within existing appropriation, and total cost should not exceed that of one fulltime position. The overall budget impact will be negligible, although the aggregate cost of enforcement is expected to outweigh the revenue generated.

Conclusion:

The Department of Finance has no objection to the passage of Council Bill # 18-0296.

cc: Kyron Banks