


FROM	NAME & TITLE	Robert Cename, Budget Director <i>BaltAC</i>	CITY of BALTIMORE MEMO	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Bureau of the Budget and Management Research Room 432, City Hall		
	SUBJECT	City Council Bill 22-0191 – Homeless Shelters and Transitional Housing Units – Human Trafficking Notice		

DATE:

TO

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

March 22, 2022

Position: Does Not Oppose

The Department of Finance is herein reporting on City Council Bill 22-0191, Homeless Shelters and Transitional Housing Units – Human Trafficking Notice Requirements, the purpose of which is to require homeless shelters and transitional housing units to display notice of the National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline within certain locations. Notices must be at least 16 x 20 inches and have text in English and Spanish. Display of notices is subject to enforcement with failure to display resulting in warning or citation.

Background

This legislation builds upon previous legislation that requires notices about human-trafficking prevention be posted in adult-entertainment businesses, food service facilities, hotels, massage establishments, construction businesses with permits from the Baltimore City Department of Housing and Community Development, and City-Owned and City-Occupied buildings. Maryland State law requires similar notices to be posted at truck stops and highway rest areas. This legislation would expand human trafficking signage display requirements to include postings within homeless shelters and transitional housing units.

Fiscal Impact

The Department of Finance anticipates minimal fiscal impact from this legislation. Currently, the City does not operate homeless shelters. However, the Mayor’s Office of Homeless Services is looking to acquire two hotels to convert to non-congregate housing, which would fall under this legislation. The cost of implementation for these two buildings is difficult to estimate because conversion has not occurred and their interior layout is to be determined. However, printing 100 signs would have an estimated initial cost \$15.60 and an ongoing cost of \$7.80, to replace approximately half of the signs annually. Additionally, it is anticipated that enforcement of this legislation would occur by including it as part of regular inspections of facilities. Finance assumes that these costs can be absorbed by current resources.

Conclusion

This legislation expands required posting of human-trafficking prevention signs to homeless shelters and transitional housing units, which will have minimal fiscal impact for the City.

For the reasons stated above, the Department of Finance does not oppose City Council Bill 22-0191.

cc: Henry Raymond
Natasha Mehu
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