

**CITY OF BALTIMORE  
COUNCIL BILL 21-0038  
(First Reader)**

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Introduced by: Councilmembers Burnett, Cohen, Dorsey, Porter, Middleton, Bullock

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2021

Assigned to: Public Safety and Government Operations Committee

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REFERRED TO THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES: City Solicitor, Baltimore Development Corporation, Health Department, Police Department, Department of Housing and Community Development, Mayor's Office of Homeless Services, Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, Department of General Services, Department of Social Services, Finance Department, Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ORDINANCE concerning

2 **Human-Trafficking Notice Requirements – Modifications**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring city-owned or -occupied buildings to place a notice regarding the  
4 human-trafficking prevention hotline in certain locations; deleting an obsolete reference to  
5 the “Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation”; providing that certain  
6 businesses may obtain the required human-trafficking notices from the United States  
7 Department of Homeland Security’s Blue Campaign website; and conforming and clarifying  
8 related provisions.

9 BY repealing and re-ordaining, with amendments

10 Article 15 - Licensing and Regulation  
11 Sections 42-1(g) and 42-2  
12 Baltimore City Code  
13 (Edition 2000)

14 BY adding

15 Article 15 - Licensing and Regulation  
16 Section 42-2.1  
17 Baltimore City Code  
18 (Edition 2000)

19 **SECTION 1. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE,** That the  
20 Laws of Baltimore City read as follows:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS indicate matter added to existing law.  
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

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**Baltimore City Code**

**Article 15. Licensing and Regulation**

**Subtitle 42. Human-Trafficking Notice Requirements**

**§ 42-1. Definitions.**

(g) *Person.*

(1) *IN GENERAL.*

“Person” means:

(I) [(1)] an individual;

(II) [(2)] a partnership, firm, association, corporation, or other entity of any kind;  
or

(III) [(3)] a receiver, trustee, guardian, personal representative, fiduciary, or  
representative of any kind.

(2) *EXCLUSIONS.*

“PERSON” DOES NOT INCLUDE, UNLESS OTHERWISE EXPRESSLY PROVIDED, A  
GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY OR AN INSTRUMENTALITY OR UNIT OF A GOVERNMENTAL  
ENTITY.

**§ 42-2. Human trafficking prevention signs to be posted.**

(a) *Applicability.*

The requirements of this section apply only to:

(1) adult-entertainment businesses;

(2) food service facilities;

(3) hotels; and

(4) permit holders.

(b) *In general.*

(1) The owner of any business described in subsection (a) of this section must post a sign  
that states the following:

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1 “REPORT HUMAN TRAFFICKING:

2 National Human Trafficking Resource Center

3 **Call 1-888-373-7888 or text “BeFree” (233733)**

4 CALL FOR HELP IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW:

- 5 • is being forced to have sex without consent
- 6 • has had an ID or documents taken away
- 7 • is being threatened by or is in debt to an employer
- 8 • wants to leave a job but cannot freely do so

9 TOLL-FREE ‡ 24/7 ‡ CONFIDENTIAL ‡ INTERPRETERS AVAILABLE

10 This sign is required by Baltimore City law”

11 (2) The sign must:

- 12 (i) be at least 3 by 5 inches in size;
- 13 (ii) contain the text required under paragraph (1) of this subsection in English and
- 14 Spanish; and
- 15 (iii) draw attention to the phone number of the National Human Trafficking
- 16 Resource Center Hotline by showing the phone number in bold type.

17 (3) The owner of a business as provided in subsection (a) of this section may meet the

18 requirements of this subsection by creating their own signs, using a font size of not

19 less than 30 points for the hotline numbers and a font size of not less than 12 points

20 for the body text, or using copies of the signs created and made available online by

21 the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation under Maryland

22 Business Regulation Article § 15-207 if the signs are altered to indicate that they are

23 required by Baltimore City law rather than State law ] THE UNITED STATES

24 DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY’S BLUE CAMPAIGN WEBSITE.

25 (c) *Sign location.*

- 26 (1) Adult-entertainment businesses and food service facilities must post a sign required
- 27 under this section in a conspicuous place in clear view of the public and employees
- 28 where similar notices are customarily posted and on the back of the door at the
- 29 entrance to each restroom.
- 30 (2) Permit holders must post the sign required under this section in a conspicuous place
- 31 in clear view of the public.
- 32 (3) Hotels must post the sign required under this section on the back of each hotel room
- 33 entry door.

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1 (d) *Hotels to certify.*

2 Beginning in calendar year 2020, any person who owns or operates a hotel within the City  
3 must annually certify to the Housing Commissioner, in the form and manner required by  
4 the Department of Housing and Community Development, no later than December 31 of  
5 each year, that the hotel is in compliance with this section.

6 **§ 42-2.1. CITY-OWNED OR -OCCUPIED BUILDINGS.**

7 (A) *IN GENERAL.*

8 EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS SECTION, IN EACH CITY-OWNED OR -OCCUPIED  
9 BUILDING, AT LEAST 1 SIGN DESCRIBED IN § 42-2(B) OF THIS SUBTITLE MUST BE POSTED IN  
10 EACH:

- 11 (1) LOCATION WHERE THE NOTICE REQUIRED BY SUBTITLE 4 {“WAGES AND HOURS”},  
12 PART V {“ENFORCEMENT”} OF THE STATE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT ARTICLE IS  
13 POSTED;
- 14 (2) PUBLIC RESTROOM; AND
- 15 (3) PUBLIC ENTRANCEWAY OR MAIN LOBBY TO THE BUILDING OR PORTION OF THE  
16 BUILDING OCCUPIED BY THE CITY.

17 (B) *FACILITIES OCCUPIED BY THE BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM.*

- 18 (1) THE DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE BALTIMORE  
19 CITY BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS, MAY DEVELOP ALTERNATE, AGE-  
20 APPROPRIATE HUMAN-TRAFFICKING NOTICE SIGNAGE FOR USE IN CITY-OWNED  
21 FACILITIES OCCUPIED BY THE BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM.
- 22 (2) AT A MINIMUM, ANY ALTERNATE SIGN DEVELOPED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL  
23 MEET THE FORM REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN § 42-2(B)(2) OF THIS SUBTITLE.

24 (C) *EXCEPTIONS.*

25 THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO ANY CITY-OWNED BUILDING THAT IS VACANT.

26 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That the catchlines contained in this Ordinance  
27 are not law and may not be considered to have been enacted as a part of this or any prior  
28 Ordinance.

29 **SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED,** That this Ordinance takes effect on the 30<sup>th</sup> day  
30 after the date it is enacted.