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**SENATE BILL 6056**

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**State of Washington**

**68th Legislature**

**2024 Regular Session**

**By** Senators Torres, C. Wilson, and L. Wilson

Read first time 01/09/24. Referred to Committee on Labor & Commerce.

1 AN ACT Relating to human trafficking awareness training  
2 requirements; amending RCW 70.62.260; adding a new section to chapter  
3 70.62 RCW; 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, 2025, and to new employees no later than 90 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) Content that is culturally responsive;

23 (c) Guidance specific to the public lodging sector concerning how  
24 to identify individuals who may be victims of human trafficking based  
25 on behaviors and traits of trafficking regardless of race, creed,  
26 color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, or class;

27 (d) Guidance concerning the role of the employees in  
28 appropriately responding to suspected human trafficking; and

29 (e) The contact information of appropriate agencies, including a  
30 national human trafficking hotline telephone number and the telephone  
31 numbers of appropriate local law enforcement agencies.

32 (4) By January 1, 2025, every operator of a transient  
33 accommodation shall post in a location conspicuous to employees  
34 signage regarding human trafficking awareness, printed in an easily  
35 legible font in English and any other language spoken by at least 10  
36 percent of the employees.

37 (5) By January 1, 2025, every operator of a transient  
38 accommodation shall implement procedures for the voluntary reporting  
39 of suspected human trafficking to the national human trafficking

1 hotline or to a local law enforcement agency, and a policy to act as  
2 a guide for all employees on human trafficking prevention.

3 (6) Contents of the training and copies of the signage must be  
4 made available for inspection, upon request by the department.

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

7 (1) (a) No person shall operate a transient accommodation as  
8 defined in this chapter without having a valid license issued by the  
9 department. Applications for a transient accommodation license shall  
10 be filed with the department (~~(sixty)~~) 60 days or more before  
11 initiating business as a transient accommodation. All licenses issued  
12 under the provisions of this chapter shall expire one year from the  
13 effective date.

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

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

24 (3) A licensee that submits a license renewal application in  
25 accordance with this section and the rules and fee schedule adopted  
26 under this chapter shall be deemed to possess a valid license for the  
27 year following the expiration date of the expiring license, or until  
28 the department suspends or revokes the license pursuant to RCW  
29 70.62.270.

30 (4) The license of a licensee that fails to submit a license  
31 renewal application in accordance with this section, and the rules  
32 and fee schedule adopted under this chapter, shall become invalid on  
33 the (~~(thirty-fifth)~~) 35th day after the expiration date, unless the  
34 licensee shall have corrected any and all deficiencies in the renewal  
35 application and paid a penalty fee as established by rule by the  
36 department before the (~~(thirty-fifth)~~) 35th day following the  
37 expiration date. An invalid license may be reinstated upon  
38 reapplication as an applicant for a new license under subsection (1)  
39 of this section.

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

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