

House Bill 490

By: Representatives Bazemore of the 69th, Hugley of the 141st, Park of the 107th, Miller of the 62nd, and Evans of the 57th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Article 3 of Chapter 5 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
2 relating to kidnapping, false imprisonment, and related offenses, so as to provide for a
3 required human trafficking training program for hotels; to provide for definitions; to provide
4 for retraining; to provide for penalties; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
5 laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Article 3 of Chapter 5 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
9 kidnapping, false imprisonment, and related offenses, is amended by adding a new Code
10 section to read as follows:

11 "16-5-48.

12 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

13 (1) 'Employee' means any person employed by a hotel who:

14 (A) Has frequent or regular interactions with guests, such as front desk staff, porters,
15 concierges, restaurant waiting and bartending staff, room service staff, and temporary
16 employees;

17 (B) Is in a management position; or

18 (C) Has access to the guests' rooms, including housekeeping staff.

19 (2) 'Hotel' shall have the same meaning as set forth in Code Section 16-5-47.

20 (b) Every hotel proprietor shall require its employees to complete a training course on
21 recognizing and reporting instances of suspected human trafficking. Such training course
22 shall be an online course provided by the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council at no cost
23 to the hotel proprietor nor employees or an alternative online or in-person training course
24 approved by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. The Criminal Justice Coordinating
25 Council shall approve or deny the use of any alternative online or in-person training course
26 within 60 days of the submission of such training course for approval.

27 (c) Each employee shall complete the required training course described in subsection (b)
28 of this Code section within six months of being employed by a hotel and thereafter at least
29 once during each consecutive period of two calendar years, commencing with the date on
30 which he or she last completed the required training course, for as long as he or she is
31 employed by a hotel.

32 (d) Any proprietor, owner, operator, or employee of a hotel who knew or should have
33 reasonably known such premises is being utilized for the purposes of or in connection with
34 trafficking of persons for labor or sexual servitude in violation of Code Section 16-5-46
35 shall upon conviction be subject to punishment and imprisonment as provided therein."

36 **SECTION 2.**

37 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.