

The House Committee on Economic Development and Tourism offers the following substitute to HB 490:

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;

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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 the term 'innkeeper' as set forth in Code
20 Section 48-13-50.2.

21 (b) The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council shall provide a training course on
22 recognizing and reporting instances of suspected human trafficking at no cost to the
23 proprietors, owners, operators, or employees of a hotel or an alternative online or in-person
24 training course approved by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. The Georgia Bureau of
25 Investigation shall approve or deny the use of any alternative online or in-person training
26 course within 60 days of the submission of such training course for approval.

27 (c) Each proprietor, owner, operator, or employee of a hotel shall complete the training
28 course described in subsection (b) of this Code section by October 1, 2025, for any
29 proprietor, owner, operator, or employee of a hotel serving in such position on July 1,
30 2025, or within five days of first becoming a proprietor, owner, operator, or employee of
31 a hotel, and thereafter at least once during each consecutive period of two calendar years,
32 commencing with the date on which he or she last completed the required training course,
33 for as long as he or she is employed by a hotel.

34 (d) Any proprietor, owner, operator, or employee of a hotel who knows or should
35 reasonably know such premises is being utilized for the purposes of or in connection with
36 trafficking of persons for labor or sexual servitude, as such terms are defined in Code
37 Section 16-5-46, shall be required to report such to a law enforcement officer. Any person
38 required by this subsection to report a suspected case of trafficking of persons who
39 knowingly and willfully fails to do so shall commit the crime of failing to report trafficking
40 of persons and upon conviction shall be guilty of a misdemeanor."

41 **SECTION 2.**

42 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.