



May 19, 2026

POLICY ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

TO: Government Operations and Fiscal Policy Committee
THRU: Sandra A. Eubanks
Committee Director
FROM: Roger G. Banegas *RGB*
Legislative Budget and Policy Analyst
RE: Policy Analysis and Fiscal Impact Statement
CB-040-2026 The Human Trafficking Awareness Notice

CB-040-2026 (*proposed by:* Council Member Olson)

Assigned to the Government Operations and Fiscal Policy (GOFP) Committee

AN ACT CONCERNING THE HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS NOTICE for the purpose of increasing public awareness, support victims, and encourage safe reporting of suspected human trafficking and requiring all hotels, motels, and other similar lodging establishments operating within the County to post a human trafficking awareness notice inside each guest room.

Fiscal Summary

Direct Impact:

Expenditures: None likely.

Revenues: None.

Indirect Impact:

Potentially favorable.

Legislative Summary:

CB-040-2026¹, sponsored by Council Member Olson, was presented on May 12, 2026, and referred to the Government Operations and Fiscal Policy (GOFP) Committee. This bill is intended to increase public awareness, support victims, and encourage safe reporting of suspected human trafficking.

Implementation Summary:

- Create the Human Trafficking Awareness Notice
- Inform all hotels, motels, and other similar lodging establishments operating within the County to post the Human Trafficking Awareness Notice inside each guest room

Current Law/Background:

Federal

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, modern prohibitions of human trafficking in the United States have their roots in the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which barred slavery and involuntary servitude in 1865². Congress has passed a number of comprehensive bills designed to combat human trafficking. The Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA)³, *Pub. L. No. 106-386*, allowed the U.S. government to launch a campaign against modern forms of slavery domestically and internationally. The TVPA established the framework for the “3 P’s” (protection, prevention, and prosecution) of the fight against human trafficking.

Maryland

Maryland Criminal Law Article, Title 3, Subtitle 11⁴ defines and criminalizes human trafficking within the state. It establishes offenses, penalties, and victim protections addressing the exploitation of individuals for labor, services, or sexual acts. This subtitle reflects Maryland’s statutory framework for combating trafficking and safeguarding vulnerable persons. The statute distinguishes between general trafficking, child trafficking, and trafficking for sexual acts. Trafficking a minor for sex or knowingly benefiting from such conduct is among the most serious offenses. Penalties increase with aggravating factors, such as the use of violence or the involvement of multiple victims. Penalties can range up to 25 years imprisonment and fines up to \$15,000, or both.

Prince George’s County

Under the current County law, the provisions pertaining to human sex trafficking and human labor trafficking are outlined in Subtitle 14. *Morals and Conduct*. Division 19. *Human Sex Trafficking*

¹ [CB-040-2026](#)

² [U.S. Department of Justice - Human Trafficking](#)

³ [Congress - Public Law No. 106-386](#)

⁴ [Annotated Code of Maryland - Criminal Law Article, Title 3, Subtitle 11](#)

and Human Labor Trafficking. Through the enactment of CB-16-2019⁵, Section 14-191 provides the definitions for Human Sex Trafficking as (A) knowingly (i) taking or causing another to be taken to any place for prostitution, (ii) placing, causing to be placed, or harboring another in any place for prostitution, (iii) persuading, inducing, enticing, or encouraging another to be taken or placed in any place of prostitution..., and Human Labor Trafficking as (A) knowingly (i) Taking, placing, harboring, persuading, inducing, or enticing another by force, fraud, or coercion to provide services or labor; or (ii) Receiving a benefit or thing of value from the provision of services or labor by another that was induced by force, fraud, or coercion.

Additionally, Section 14-192 prohibits a person from engaging in (a) human sex trafficking and (b) human labor trafficking. Any person who violates Section 14-192 is guilty of a misdemeanor and, on conviction, is subject to imprisonment not exceeding 6 months and a fine not exceeding One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00).

Section 14-172⁶ states that “No person owning, operating, having charge or management of, a tenant living in or occupant of any premises may cause or shall permit such premises to be used in violation of County, State, or Federal laws governing controlled dangerous substances, **prostitution, human sex trafficking, human labor trafficking**, criminal gangs, the storage or concealment of illegal weapons, stolen property, contraband or other evidence of criminal activity at the premises, or as a public or neighborhood nuisance”.

CB-079-2014⁷, which amended Sec. 5-168⁸ and added Sec. 5-172⁹ to the County Code, requires that any person who owns or operates a hotel, rooming house, tourist home, motel, or tourist cabin park within the County shall be prohibited from renting rooms by the hour. The bill was in response to the problem of human trafficking in the County.

The most recent piece of legislation enacted to combat human trafficking was through CB-023-2024¹⁰, which requires that any contractor with a written contract with the County for the provision of services, including construction and construction management services, as defined by Sec. 10A-101 of the Prince George’s County Code shall not, during the performance of the contract, through its employees or agents, engage in human sex trafficking or human labor trafficking as defined by Sec. 14-191, Subtitle 14 of The Prince George’s County Code.

Resource Personnel:

- Leroy D. Maddox Jr., Legislative Attorney
- Julio Murillo, Chief of Staff (Council District 3), Office of Vice Chair Olson
- Jose Villegas, Director, Office of Human Rights

⁵ [CB-016-2019](#)

⁶ [Sec. 14-172 of the Prince George's County Code](#)

⁷ [CB-079-2024](#)

⁸ [Sec. 5-168 of the Prince George's County Code](#)

⁹ [Sec. 5-172 of the Prince George's County Code](#)

¹⁰ [CB-023-2024](#)

Discussion/Policy Analysis:

According to the Prince George's County Police Department's Human Trafficking Unit, in 2026, Year to Date (YTD), there have been 6 Human Trafficking Cases, 1 Human Trafficking Tip(s), 15 Prostitution Cases, and 7 Other Cases. The tip was unfounded, and most of the cases have resulted in arrests. The arrests have not yet been adjudicated for final dispositions.

CB-040-2026 intends to increase public awareness, support victims, and encourage safe reporting of suspected human trafficking. If enacted, the proposed Bill would amend the Prince George's County Code Subtitle 5. *Businesses and Licenses*. Division 7. *Hotels and Rooming Houses* to add section 5-171.02, which creates a Human Trafficking Awareness Notice.

Section 5-171.02 would state that **(a)** All hotels, motels, and other similar lodging establishments operating within the County shall post a human trafficking awareness notice inside each guest room, **(b)** The human trafficking awareness notice shall be placed in a visible location within the room, such as on the back of the door or near guest information materials, and this notice shall be maintained in good condition, and **(c)** The human trafficking awareness notice shall include the following language:

“Human Trafficking is real.

Learn to recognize the signs. Is the person:

- **Forced/coerced to work or perform commercial sex acts, or is under 18 and in commercial sex?**
- **Unable to leave their work/services without severe consequences?**
- **Being forced to work off a debt?**
- **Controlled/watched/coached/threatened by someone?**
- **Not in possession of their own money/identification?**
- **Showing signs of abuse, malnourishment, lack of sleep?**

While no single indicator is proof of human trafficking, these indicators are just a few that may alert you to a potential human trafficking situation.

To report suspected human trafficking, call:

For emergencies, contact 911

National Human Trafficking Hotline

1-888-373-7888 (TTY: 711)

Anonymous Tip Line: 1-866-411-TIPS (8477)

Available 24/7 your call is never recorded, traced, or identified.

BeFree Textline

Text HELP to 233733 (BEFREE)

Confidential, 24/7

**National Center for Missing & Exploited Children
1-800-843-5678 (1-800-THE-LOST)"**

**UMD SAFE Center for Human Trafficking
301-314-7233 (Between 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM Monday – Friday)**

Subsection (d) states that the human trafficking notice shall be posted in additional languages as required by County law.

Fiscal Impact:

- *Direct Impact*

Enactment of CB-040-2026 will not have a direct fiscal impact on the County. The bill primarily imposes compliance obligations on private lodging establishments and does not establish a new County program or enforcement division. According to the Office of Human Rights, this bill creates no operational or financial impact for the Office.

- *Indirect Impact*

Enactment of CB-040-2026 should have a favorable indirect impact on the County by enhancing local anti-trafficking efforts while promoting public safety and victim support services.

- *Appropriated in the Current Fiscal Year Budget*

No.

Effective Date of Proposed Legislation:

The proposed Bill shall be effective forty-five (45) calendar days after it becomes law.

If you require additional information or have questions about this fiscal impact statement, please reach out to me via phone or email.