

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND**  
**2014 Legislative Session**

Bill No. CB-79-2014

Chapter No. 70

Proposed and Presented by Council Members Toles and Olson

Introduced by Council Member Toles, Olson, Harrison, Franklin, Lehman and Patterson

Co-Sponsors \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Introduction October 21, 2014

**BILL**

1 AN ACT concerning

2 Human Trafficking – Lodging Establishments – Room Rental

3 For the purpose of prohibiting lodging establishments from renting rooms by the hour for certain  
4 rental periods; providing exceptions to certain rentals; providing for the enforcement of and  
5 penalties required pursuant to this Act; and generally relating to lodging establishment regulation  
6 in the County.

7 BY repealing and reenacting with amendments:

8 SUBTITLE 5. BUSINESSES AND LICENSES.

9 Sections 5-168,

10 The Prince George's County Code

11 (2011 Edition; 2013 Supplement).

12 BY adding:

13 SUBTITLE 5. BUSINESSES AND LICENSES.

14 Sections 5-172,

15 The Prince George's County Code

16 (2011 Edition; 2013 Supplement).

17 WHEREAS, human trafficking is the use of force, threat of force, fraud or coercion  
18 to recruit, harbor, transport, provide or obtain any person for labor or commercial sex or  
19 to cause a person under 18 to engage in a commercial sex act; and

20 WHEREAS, the number of human trafficking cases has grown exponentially,  
21 requiring the Prince George’s County Police Department to establish a special vice unit

1 to address human trafficking; now, therefore:

2 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County,  
 3 Maryland, that Sections 5-168 of the Prince George's County Code be and the same are  
 4 hereby repealed and reenacted with the following amendments:

5 **SUBTITLE 5. BUSINESSES AND LICENSES.**

6 **DIVISION 7. HOTELS AND ROOMING HOUSES.**

7 **Sec. 5-168. Room register required; contents; occupancy; room rental.**

8 (a) Any person who owns or operates a hotel, rooming house, tourist home, motel or  
 9 tourist cabin park within the County shall maintain a permanent register. The register shall be  
 10 inscribed in ink in legible writing and contain the name and resident address, including state, city  
 11 or town and street number or rural mail delivery route number, of each guest who occupies or  
 12 engages sleeping facilities within any such establishment, the number of the room or facility  
 13 occupied by such guest and the date and time of registration and of checkout of each such guest.

14 (b) No person shall occupy any room or facility until after the registration provided for in  
 15 this Section.

16 (c) Any owner, operator or employee, or person in control of any hotel, rooming house,  
 17 tourist home, motel or tourist cabin park within the County shall be prohibited from renting  
 18 rooms by less than a full one night's rate for the hotel, rooming house, tourist home, motel or  
 19 tourist cabin park. A "full one night's rate" means a rate for at least a twelve (12) hour term. This  
 20 section only applies to sleeping rooms but not other rooms within a hotel, rooming house, tourist  
 21 home, motel or tourist cabin park,

22 (d) Notwithstanding Section 5-168(c), there is an exemption for any owner, operator,  
 23 employee, or person in control, of any hotel, rooming house, tourist home, motel or tourist cabin  
 24 park within the County from the room rental limitation providing that the room is being rented to  
 25 a person registering with or under a corporate or business account.

26 (e) Notwithstanding Section 5-168(c), there is an exemption for any owner, operator,  
 27 employee, or person in control, of any hotel, rooming house, tourist home, motel or tourist cabin  
 28 park within the County from the room rental limitation within a quarter of a mile of a hospital so  
 29 they can rent to patients accessing outpatient care, or the patient's family member, at that  
 30 hospital or other medical facility. There is also an exemption for any owner, operator, employee,  
 31 or person in control of any hotel, rooming house, tourist home, motel or tourist cabin park within

1 the County from the room rental limitation for renting for special purposes, which shall include  
 2 air or transit travel layovers, speaker ready rooms, public safety purposes, and nursing or  
 3 pregnant mothers. The Executive Director of the Human Relations Commission may also grant  
 4 additional exemptions in advance in writing for other special purposes that the Executive  
 5 Director determines is consistent with the intent of this Act.

6 SECTION 2. BE IT ENACTED by the County Council of Prince George's County,  
 7 Maryland, that Section 5-172 of the Prince George's County Code be and the same is  
 8 hereby added:

9 **SUBTITLE 5. BUSINESSES AND LICENSES.**

10 **DIVISION 7. HOTELS AND ROOMING HOUSES.**

11 **Sec. 5-172. Penalties.**

12 (a) Any act that is prohibited or is made or declared to be unlawful or an offense pursuant  
 13 to Subtitle 5, Division 7 of the County Code, shall be punished by a fine not exceeding Five  
 14 Hundred Dollars (\$500) for the first offense and One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) for subsequent  
 15 offenses.

16 SECTION 3. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that the provisions of this Act are hereby  
 17 declared to be severable; and, in the event that any section, subsection, paragraph, subparagraph,  
 18 sentence, clause, phrase, or word of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional by a court of  
 19 competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the remaining  
 20 words, phrases, clauses, sentences, subparagraphs, paragraphs, subsections, or sections of this  
 21 Act, since the same would have been enacted without the incorporation in this Act of any such  
 22 invalid or unconstitutional word, phrase, clause, sentence, subparagraph, paragraph, subsection,  
 23 or section.

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SECTION 4. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED that this Act shall take effect on April 1, 2015.  
Adopted this 19th day of November, 2014.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE  
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mel Franklin  
Chairman

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Redis C. Floyd  
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED:

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Rushern L. Baker, III  
County Executive