STATE OF NEW YORK

4690

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 11, 2025

Introduced by Sen. CLEARE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Transportation

AN ACT to amend the transportation law, in relation to human trafficking awareness and training for public transit employees and mandated displayed materials created by the state public transportation safety board and the department of transportation

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The transportation law is amended by adding a new section 217-a to read as follows:

§ 217-a. Human trafficking awareness and training. 1. Human trafficking recognition training program. (a) For purposes of this section, "public transit" shall mean any mode of transportation that is publicly available in the state and can accommodate for more than eight passengers or is funded by the state or any other local municipality.

(b) Every public transit system shall require all employees who are likely to interact or come into contact with guests to undergo a human trafficking recognition training program to provide training in the recognition of a human trafficking victim as defined in section four hundred eighty-three-aa of the social services law. Such training program shall be established or approved by the division of criminal justice services and the office of temporary and disability assistance in consultation with the New York state interagency task force on human trafficking. The training program may be developed by a federal, state, or non-profit organization, and may be incorporated as part of the public transit system's existing training programs or may be provided by organizations or providers identified by the commissioner of the division of criminal justice services or the commissioner of the office of temporary and disability assistance, provided that the training includes all of the requirements of this section. Established or approved training programs may be made available through methods including, but not

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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limited to, in-person instruction, electronic and video communication, or online programs.

(c) Any human trafficking recognition training program established or approved by the division of criminal justice services and the office of temporary and disability assistance in consultation with the New York state interagency task force on human trafficking as required in this section shall address no less than the following issues:

(i) the nature of human trafficking;

(ii) how human trafficking is defined in law;

(iii) how to identify victims of human trafficking;

(iv) relief and recovery options for survivors; and

(v) social and legal services available to victims.

(d) The commissioner of the division of criminal justice services and the commissioner of the office of temporary and disability assistance shall make available a list of established or approved human trafficking recognition programs for use by a public transit system.

(e) All new employees required to receive human trafficking recognition training shall receive such training within their first month of employment.

(f) The training shall take place at a location determined by the public transit system and shall be considered compensable time.

2. Record keeping requirements of human trafficking recognition training. Every keeper of each public transit system shall maintain records indicating that each employee required to undergo an established or approved human trafficking recognition training program pursuant to this section has completed such training. Such records shall be kept on file by the public transit system for the period during which the employee is employed by the public transit system and for one year after such employment ends.

3. Human trafficking prevention materials determined by the department in collaboration with the board shall be displayed in all public transit modes of transportation. Such materials may include, but shall not be limited to, the human trafficking assistance hotline and where to find online or local resources.

§ 2. This act shall take effect one year after it shall have become a law; provided however that all applicable current employees of a public transit system on the effective date of this act shall receive human trafficking recognition training within four months of the effective date of this act.