

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9755

To require owners and employees of massage wellness spas to undergo fingerprint-based background checks to mitigate the risk of human trafficking and enhance public safety.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

Ms. BOEBERT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To require owners and employees of massage wellness spas to undergo fingerprint-based background checks to mitigate the risk of human trafficking and enhance public safety.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Human Trafficking
5 Fingerprint Background Check Protection Act of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE; FINDINGS.**

7 (a) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of this Act is to require
8 owners and employees of massage wellness spas to under-

1 go fingerprint-based background checks to mitigate the
2 risk of human trafficking and enhance public safety.

3 (b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

4 (1) Human trafficking remains a grave concern,
5 with massage wellness spas being identified as
6 venues frequently associated with such criminal ac-
7 tivities.

8 (2) The protection of vulnerable individuals and
9 the prevention of human trafficking are paramount.

10 (3) Comprehensive background checks, particu-
11 larly fingerprint-based ones, have proven to be effec-
12 tive in identifying potential risks and preventing ex-
13 ploitation.

14 **SEC. 3. FINGERPRINT BACKGROUND CHECKS.**

15 (a) All owners and employees of massage wellness
16 spas, including independent contractors, shall be subject
17 to a fingerprint-based background check.

18 (b) The background check shall be conducted by a
19 law enforcement agency, or an entity authorized by the
20 relevant jurisdiction to perform such checks.

21 (c) The results of the background check shall be re-
22 viewed to determine the presence of any criminal history,
23 particularly related to offenses such as human trafficking,
24 sexual exploitation, or violence.

1 (d) Owners and employees must pass the background
2 check prior to being able to own, be employed, or allowed
3 to continue their employment in a massage parlor.

4 **SEC. 4. COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT.**

5 (a) Owners of massage wellness spas shall be respon-
6 sible for ensuring that all employees undergo the required
7 background checks.

8 (b) Failure to comply with the provisions of this Act
9 shall result in penalties as determined by the relevant ju-
10 risdiction, which may include fines, suspension, or revoca-
11 tion of licenses.

12 **SEC. 5. REPORTING.**

13 Law enforcement agencies shall report any findings
14 of criminal activity uncovered during the background
15 check process to appropriate authorities for further inves-
16 tigation and action.

17 **SEC. 6. TRAINING AND ENFORCEMENT.**

18 (a) Owners and employees of massage wellness spas
19 shall undergo training on recognizing and reporting signs
20 of human trafficking.

21 (b) Educational materials and resources shall be
22 made available to massage parlor owners and employees
23 to raise awareness about human trafficking and related
24 issues.

1 **SEC. 7. ENACTMENT.**

2 This Act shall take effect 120 days after the date of
3 enactment.

4 **SEC. 8. RELIABILITY OF FINGERPRINT BACKGROUND**
5 **CHECKS.**

6 (a) Fingerprint-based background checks are widely
7 recognized as one of the most reliable methods for identi-
8 fying individuals and assessing their criminal history.

9 (b) Fingerprinting offers a unique identifier for each
10 individual, significantly reducing the likelihood of false
11 positives or identity confusion.

12 (c) The use of fingerprints in background checks en-
13 hances accuracy and completeness by accessing criminal
14 records databases at local, State, and Federal levels.

15 (d) Studies have shown that fingerprint-based back-
16 ground checks have a high degree of accuracy and are ef-
17 fective in identifying individuals with criminal histories.

18 (e) Law enforcement agencies, government entities,
19 and employers across various sectors rely on fingerprint-
20 based background checks as a standard practice for vet-
21 ting individuals' criminal history.

22 (f) By mandating fingerprint-based background
23 checks for owners and employees of massage wellness
24 spas, this Act ensures a robust and reliable screening proc-
25 ess to identify potential risks and protect against human
26 trafficking and related crimes.

1 **SEC. 9. DEFINITION.**

2 The term “massage wellness spa” is defined as a
3 business establishment where various forms of massage
4 therapy are offered. A facility where licensed massage
5 therapists provide therapeutic treatments designed to pro-
6 mote relaxation, relieve stress, alleviate pain, and improve
7 overall health and well-being. This definition includes mas-
8 sage parlors, massage facility, massage spa, and any other
9 facility where the core service is to provide massage serv-
10 ices of any kind.

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