

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 16, 2009

SENATE BILL

No. 355

Introduced by Senator Romero

February 25, 2009

An act to add Chapter 35 (commencing with Section 22949) to Division 8 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to economy hotels.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 355, as amended, Romero. Economy hotels: police calls.

Existing law provides for special business regulations for certain businesses.

This bill would make legislative findings regarding the rate of crime at economy hotels. The bill would require any person operating one or more economy hotels in California to post, on the Internet Web site operated by that person for the purpose of taking reservations for the hotel, the total number of calls for police service and the ratio of calls for police service per guest room during the most recent calendar year. The bill would ~~also~~ require that the information be posted at the front desk of each economy hotel in a conspicuous location for public inspection. *The bill would also require an online travel company, as defined, doing business in California to obtain that information from an economy hotel in California and to post the information on its Internet Web site listing for the economy hotel.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) As a group, economy hotels and motels attract crime at a rate higher than other hotels and motels.

(b) Management practices play a key role in limiting crime and the need for police attention at properties.

(c) The number of calls for police service per number of guest rooms provides a standardized tool for evaluating problem levels across motels of different sizes and for comparison within markets.

(d) Consumers have a right to know the comparative risk of crime when they make room reservations.

(e) By requiring economy hotels and motels to post the rate of police emergency calls, guests will have access to information that indicates the level of police attention required at the property. This will help the traveling public evaluate the relative safety of economy hotels and motels. Such a system will provide an economic incentive for economy hotel and motel operators to adhere to the best practices possible to deter crime and nuisance at their properties.

SEC. 2. Chapter 35 (commencing with Section 22949) is added to Division 8 of the Business and Professions Code, to read:

CHAPTER 35. ECONOMY HOTELS

22949. (a) Any person operating one or more economy hotels in California shall post, on the Internet Web site operated by that person for the purpose of taking reservations for the hotel, all of the following information for each economy hotel:

(1) The total number of calls for police service during the most recent calendar year.

(2) The ratio of calls for police service per guest room during the most recent calendar year.

(b) The information required by subdivision (a) shall be posted on the same page of the Internet Web site with information describing the amenities of the hotel or motel under the title "Calls for Police Service for the Previous Calendar Year" and "Calls for Police Service per Room for the Previous Calendar Year."

(c) The information required by subdivision (a) shall also be posted at the front desk of each economy hotel in a conspicuous location for public inspection.

(d) *An online travel company shall obtain the information specified in subdivision (a) from an operator of an economy hotel in California and post the information on its Internet Web site listing for the economy hotel in accordance with subdivision (b).*

~~(d)~~

(e) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) “Average daily rate” means the average rental income per occupied room over the previous calendar year. Average daily rate shall be calculated by dividing the room revenue by the number of rooms sold.

(2) “Calls for police service” means the number of citizen-initiated 911 or officer-initiated service calls for police services, as recorded in daily logs by local law enforcement agencies.

(3) “Economy hotel” means any hotel, motel, or other transient lodging facility with 10 or more guestrooms, for which the average daily rate during the most recent calendar year is less than one hundred dollars(\$100).

(4) “Guest room” means the portion of an economy hotel that may be used by a guest as a temporary residence, including single rooms and suites.

(5) *“Online travel company” means an entity doing business in California that allows consumers to make reservations over the Internet for an economy hotel in California.*

~~(5)~~

(6) “Person” means an individual, corporation, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, business trust, estate, trust, association, joint venture, agency, instrumentality, or any other legal or commercial entity, whether domestic or foreign.