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HOUSE BILL 2008

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State of Washington                      55th Legislature                      1997 Regular Session

By Representatives Sheahan, Sterk, Crouse and Costa

Read first time 02/18/97. Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

1            AN ACT Relating to persons who patronize prostitutes; adding a new  
2 section to chapter 9A.88 RCW; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 1.**    The legislature finds that most law  
5 enforcement effort to prevent prostitution is directed at punishing  
6 prostitutes.    The legislature also finds that many patrons of  
7 prostitutes use motor vehicles in order to obtain the services of  
8 prostitutes and that successful prevention of prostitution involves  
9 efforts to curtail the demand for services offered by prostitutes. It  
10 is the intent of the legislature to decrease the demand for  
11 prostitution services and thereby eliminate the economic foundation for  
12 the prostitution industry. It is also the intent of the legislature to  
13 eliminate traffic congestion and other concerns to neighborhoods and  
14 business areas caused by patrons cruising in motor vehicles in areas of  
15 high prostitution activity.

16            NEW SECTION.    **Sec. 2.**    A new section is added to chapter 9A.88 RCW  
17 to read as follows:

1           (1) Upon arresting and taking into custody a person suspected of  
2 patronizing a prostitute in violation of RCW 9A.88.110 or patronizing  
3 a juvenile prostitute in violation of RCW 9.68A.100, where a motor  
4 vehicle was used in the commission of either crime, a law enforcement  
5 officer may immediately impound the vehicle, provided that the person  
6 arrested is the owner of the vehicle.

7           (2) Impoundments performed under this section shall be in  
8 accordance with chapter 46.55 RCW.

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