

Public Safety Committee

HB 2360

Brief Description: Increasing penalties for the crime of patronizing a prostitute.

Sponsors: Representatives Pellicciotti, Kraft, Dolan, McDonald, Orwall, Hayes, Van Werven, Klippert, Lovick, Kloba, Fey, Tarleton, Johnson, Sawyer, Kirby, Stanford, Reeves, Jinkins, Ryu, Ortiz-Self, Riccelli and Gregerson.

<p>Brief Summary of Bill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raises the classification for the crime of Patronizing a Prostitute from a misdemeanor to a gross misdemeanor.
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Hearing Date: 1/16/18

Staff: Sydney Sullivan (786-7291) and Omeara Harrington (786-7136).

Background:

Patronizing a Prostitute.

A person is guilty of the crime of Patronizing a Prostitute if he or she:

- pays a fee, pursuant to a prior understanding, as compensation for another person having engaged in sexual conduct with him or her; or
- pays or agrees to pay a fee to another person with the understanding that the person will engage in sexual conduct; or
- solicits or requests another person to engage in sexual conduct with him or her in exchange for a fee.

The crime of Patronizing a Prostitute is a misdemeanor offense.

Classification of Crimes.

Crimes are classified as misdemeanors, gross misdemeanors, or felonies, of which there are class A, B, and C felonies. The classification of a crime generally determines the maximum term of

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confinement and the maximum fine a court can impose for an offense. For each classification, the maximum terms of confinement and maximum fines are as follows:

Classification	Maximum Confinement	Maximum Fine
Misdemeanor	90 days	\$1,000
Gross Misdemeanor	364 days	\$5,000
Class C Felony	5 years	\$10,000
Class B Felony	10 years	\$20,000
Class A Felony	Life	\$50,000

Summary of Bill:

The penalty for the crime of Patronizing a Prostitute is raised to a gross misdemeanor.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 10, 2018.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.