

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Minimal fiscal impact, no statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed
Vote:	9 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Garrett, Hicks, Olson, Schaufler, Tomei, Wand, Whisnant Barker, Krieger
Nays:	
Exc.:	Nolan
Prepared By:	Bill Taylor, Counsel
Meeting Dates:	2/18, 2/25, 3/18, 3/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Creates the crime of patronizing a prostitute if a person pays or offers to pay a fee to another in order to engage in a sex act. Classifies the crime as a Class A misdemeanor. Sets the fine at \$20,000 if the person to whom the fee was offered was under eighteen years of age. Does not require the state to prove the person knew the individual to whom the offer was made was under eighteen years of age. Allows court to impose a fine that the court determines the defendant can pay if the court determines that the defendant is unable to pay \$20,000. Prohibits the court from waiving or suspending the fine. Amends the prostitution statute, ORS 167.007, to include only the person offering to engage in a sex act for a fee.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Lack of knowledge of age is no defense
- Going after customers through heavy fines

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Stipulates first offense, mandatory fine of \$10,000; second offense, mandatory fine of \$20,000; third and subsequent offense, \$20,000 and at least 30 days in jail.

BACKGROUND: Currently, the crime of prostitution includes the person offering to engage in a sex act in return for a fee and the person paying or offering to pay the fee. It is a Class A misdemeanor with a penalty of up to a year in jail and a fine of up to \$6,250. Many of those seeking the services of a prostitute are attracted to underage girls. This measure would significantly increase the penalties for those who do.