

SB 596 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Taylor, Sen. Hansell

Senate Committee On Judiciary

Action Date: 03/21/19

Action: Do pass.

Vote: 7-0-0-0

Yeas: 7 - Bentz, Fagan, Gelser, Linthicum, Manning Jr, Prozanski, Thatcher

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

Prepared By: Gillian Fischer, Counsel

Meeting Dates: 3/21

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Provides that any evidence obtained from an individual's report of the commission of a person felony to law enforcement may not be used in prosecution of the individual for prostitution or attempted prostitution.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Limited to evidence for crime of prostitution
- Codification of a policy in practice in many jurisdictions
- Encourages victims of persons crime to report without fear of prosecution
- Increases access to justice for vulnerable population

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

A person commits the crime of prostitution if the person engages in, or offers or agrees to engage in, sexual conduct or sexual contact in return for a fee. Senate Bill 596 extends protection from criminal liability for prostitution when an individual is reporting a person felony committed against them.