

Subject Increased penalties for human trafficking offenses

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Overview

This bill makes several changes to laws related to sex trafficking and being the patron of a prostitute. The bill increases maximum penalties and fines, eliminates the existing misdemeanor offense of being the patron of a prostitute, makes all first offenses for being the patron of a prostitute a gross misdemeanor, and creates a new felony offense for being a repeat patron of a prostitute.

Summary

Section	Description
1	Definitions. Adds a violation of section 609.322 (sex trafficking in the first degree) to the definition of “violent crime” in the section of law that permits increased sentences for certain dangerous and repeat felony offenders.
2	Certain violations excepted. Removes a reference to a misdemeanor violation which is repealed in this bill.
3	Solicitation, inducement, and promotion of prostitution; sex trafficking in the first degree. Increases the maximum sentence of imprisonment for a person who commits sex trafficking in the first degree from 20 years to 25 years. Increases the maximum sentence of imprisonment for a person who commits sex trafficking in the first degree when any of four aggravating factors are present from 25 years to 30 years.
4	Solicitation, inducement, and promotion of prostitution; sex trafficking in the second degree. Increases the maximum sentence of imprisonment for a person who commits sex trafficking in the second degree from 15 years to 20 years.

Section	Description
5	Patrons of prostitution; penalty. Makes a first offense for being a patron of a prostitute a gross misdemeanor regardless of where the offense takes place. Under current law, a first offense is a misdemeanor unless the offense takes place in a public place. Creates a new felony offense for a person who violates this section within ten years of a previous conviction for a prostitution or trafficking offense.
6	Community service in lieu of minimum fine. Makes a conforming change based on the repeal of section 609.324, subdivision 3.
7	Penalty assessment authorized. Makes a conforming change based on the repeal of section 609.324, subdivision 3.
8	Penalty. Increases the maximum sentence of imprisonment for solicitation of children to engage in sexual conduct or electronic solicitation of children from three years to five years, and increases the maximum fine from \$5,000 to \$10,000.
9	Gross misdemeanor. Establishes a gross misdemeanor offense for trespassing on the grounds of a facility that provides emergency shelter services for sex trafficking victims, or a facility that provides transitional housing to sex trafficking victims and their children.
10	Sentencing guidelines modification. Directs the Minnesota Sentencing Guidelines Commission to review and consider modifying the sex offender grid based on the changes made in this bill.
11	Repealer. Repeals section 609.324, subdivision 3, the misdemeanor offense of being a patron of a prostitute in a place other than a public place.



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