

# HOUSE BILL ANALYSIS

## HB 2008

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**Title:** An act relating to persons who patronize prostitutes.

**Brief Description:** Authorizing law enforcement officers to impound the vehicles of persons who are patronizing prostitutes.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Sheahan, Sterk, Crouse and Costa.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LAW & JUSTICE

**Staff:** Edie Adams (786-7180).

**Background:** *It is a misdemeanor offense for a person to patronize a prostitute and a class C felony for a person to patronize a juvenile prostitute.*

*A person is guilty of patronizing a prostitute if he or she: (1) pays a fee, under a prior understanding, as compensation for another person having engaged in sexual conduct with him or her; (2) pays a fee to another person with the understanding that the person will engage in sexual conduct; or (3) solicits another person to engage in sexual conduct in exchange for a fee.*

*A person is guilty of patronizing a juvenile prostitute if that person engages in or offers or agrees to engage in, sexual conduct with a minor in return for a fee.*

*When a law enforcement officer arrests the driver of a vehicle, the officer may take custody of the vehicle and provide for its removal to a place of safety. A person whose vehicle has been impounded may redeem the vehicle by paying the costs of towing and storage. In addition, the person may request a hearing in district court to determine the validity of the impoundment.*

**Summary of Bill:** *A law enforcement officer who arrests and takes into custody a person suspected of patronizing a prostitute or patronizing a juvenile prostitute may impound the vehicle used by the person arrested in the commission of the crime if the person arrested is the owner of the vehicle.*

*Impoundments must be performed in accordance with current law regarding towing and impoundment.*

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Office of Program Research