

# HOUSE BILL REPORT

## ESB 6254

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**As Passed House - Amended:**  
March 1, 2012

**Title:** An act relating to promoting prostitution.

**Brief Description:** Changing promoting prostitution provisions.

**Sponsors:** Senators Delvin, Hargrove, Kohl-Welles, Roach, Conway, Pflug, Ericksen, Carrell, Schoesler, Fain, Baumgartner, Fraser, Padden, Regala, Kline, Shin, Litzow, Eide, Chase, Stevens, Nelson and Keiser.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:**

Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness: 2/15/12, 2/21/12 [DPA].

**Floor Activity:**

Passed House - Amended: 3/1/12, 96-0.

**Brief Summary of Engrossed Bill**  
**(As Amended by House)**

- Amends the offense of Promoting Prostitution in the first degree to include compelling a person with a mental incapacity or developmental disability that renders the person incapable of consent to engage in prostitution.

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### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY & EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

**Majority Report:** Do pass as amended. Signed by 11 members: Representatives Hurst, Chair; Ladenburg, Vice Chair; Pearson, Ranking Minority Member; Klippert, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Appleton, Armstrong, Goodman, Hope, Kirby, Moscoso and Ross.

**Staff:** Sarah Koster (786-7303).

**Background:**

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

A person is guilty of Promoting Prostitution in the first degree if he or she knowingly advances prostitution by compelling a person by threat or force to engage in prostitution or profits from prostitution which results from such threat or force.

Promoting Prostitution in the first degree is a class B felony.

**Summary of Amended Bill:**

A person is guilty of Promoting Prostitution in the first degree if he or she knowingly advances prostitution:

- by compelling a person by threat or force to engage in prostitution or profits from prostitution which results from such threat or force; or
- by compelling a person with a mental incapacity or developmental disability that renders the person incapable of consent to engage in prostitution or profits from prostitution which results from that compulsion.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

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

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:**

(In support) This is part of a package of 10 bills with bipartisan support. The 2012 legislative session is the tenth anniversary of Washington's first anti-trafficking legislation. Washington has led the way for the country on this issue. This bill is a simple fix to a problem that has been found to occur in which developmentally disabled persons have been taken advantage of.

(Opposed) None.

**Persons Testifying:** Senator Delvin, prime sponsor; and Senator Kohl-Welles.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** None.