

Public Safety Committee

SB 5277

Brief Description: Making the crime of patronizing a prostitute a gross misdemeanor.

Sponsors: Senators Kohl-Welles, Darneille, Padden, Pedersen, Fain, Frockt, Keiser, Chase and Fraser.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Increases Patronizing a Prostitute from a misdemeanor to a gross misdemeanor.

Hearing Date: 2/23/16

Staff: Kelly Leonard (786-7147).

Background:

Patronizing a Prostitute. A person is guilty of Patronizing a Prostitute if he or she: (a) pays a fee, under a prior understanding, as compensation for another person having engaged in sexual conduct with him or her; (b) pays a fee to another person with the understanding that the person will engage in sexual conduct; or (c) solicits another person to engage in sexual conduct in exchange for a fee. Patronizing a Prostitute is a misdemeanor offense.

Classification of Crimes. Crimes are classified as misdemeanors, gross misdemeanors, or felonies (of which there are class A, B, and C felonies). The classification of a crime generally determines the maximum term of confinement and/or fine a court can impose for an offense. For each classification, the maximum terms of confinement and maximum fines are as follows:

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Maximum Confinement</u>	<u>Maximum Fine</u>
Misdemeanor	90 days	\$1,000
Gross Misdemeanor	364 days	\$5,000
Class C Felony	5 years	\$10,000
Class B Felony	10 years	\$20,000

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.

Class A Felony Life

\$50,000

Summary of Bill:

Patronizing a Prostitute is increased to a gross misdemeanor.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

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