

STATE OF NEW YORK

11300

IN ASSEMBLY

May 11, 2026

Introduced by COMMITTEE ON RULES -- (at request of M. of A. Hunter) --
read once and referred to the Committee on Codes

AN ACT to amend the penal law, in relation to closing the patron exclusion in the definition of advancing prostitution and expanding the definition of patronizing a person for prostitution to include anything of value

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

- 1 Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as
2 the "sex buyer trafficking accountability act".
- 3 § 2. Section 230.02 of the penal law, as amended by section 627 of the
4 laws of 1978, the section heading and subdivision 1 as amended by chap-
5 ter 368 of the laws of 2015, is amended to read as follows:
- 6 § 230.02 Patronizing a person for prostitution; definitions.
- 7 1. A person patronizes a person for prostitution when:
- 8 (a) Pursuant to a prior understanding, [~~he or she~~] such person pays a
9 fee, or anything of value, to another person as compensation for such
10 person or a third person having engaged in sexual conduct with [~~him or~~
11 ~~her~~] such principal person; or
- 12 (b) [~~He or she~~] Such person pays or agrees to pay a fee, or anything
13 of value, to another person pursuant to an understanding that in return
14 therefor such person or a third person will engage in sexual conduct
15 with [~~him or her~~] such principal person; or
- 16 (c) [~~He or she~~] Such person solicits or requests another person to
17 engage in sexual conduct with [~~him or her~~] such principal person in
18 return for a fee, or anything of value.
- 19 2. As used in this article[~~r~~]:
- 20 (a) [~~"person~~] "Person who is patronized" means the person with whom
21 the defendant engaged in sexual conduct or was to have engaged in sexual
22 conduct pursuant to the understanding, or the person who was solicited
23 or requested by the defendant to engage in sexual conduct.
- 24 (b) "Prostitution" means the act of engaging in or agreeing to engage
25 in sexual conduct with another person in return for a fee or anything of
26 value that is given or received by a person.

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 § 3. Section 230.15 of the penal law, subdivisions 1 and 2 as amended
2 by chapter 368 of the laws of 2015, is amended to read as follows:

3 § 230.15 Promoting prostitution; definitions of terms.

4 The following definitions are applicable to this article:

5 1. "Advance prostitution." A person "advances prostitution" when,
6 acting other than as a person in prostitution [~~or as a patron thereof~~],
7 [~~he or she~~] such person knowingly causes or aids a person to commit or
8 engage in prostitution, procures or solicits patrons for prostitution,
9 provides persons or premises for prostitution purposes, operates or
10 assists in the operation of a house of prostitution or a prostitution
11 enterprise, or engages in any other conduct designed to institute, aid
12 or facilitate an act or enterprise of prostitution.

13 2. "Profit from prostitution." A person "profits from prostitution"
14 when, acting other than as a person in prostitution receiving compen-
15 sation for personally rendered prostitution services, [~~he or she~~] such
16 person accepts or receives money or other property pursuant to an agree-
17 ment or understanding with any person whereby [~~he or she~~] such principal
18 person participates or is to participate in the proceeds of prostitution
19 activity.

20 3. "Prostitution." means the act of engaging in or agreeing to engage
21 in sexual conduct with another person in return for a fee or anything of
22 value that is given or received by a person.

23 § 4. This act shall take effect immediately.