STATE OF NEW YORK

11300--A

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 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

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:

Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "sex trafficking accountability act".

§ 2. Section 230.02 of the penal law, as amended by section 627 of the laws of 1978, the section heading and subdivision 1 as amended by chapter 368 of the laws of 2015, is amended to read as follows:

§ 230.02 Patronizing a person for prostitution; definitions.

1. A person patronizes a person for prostitution when:

(a) Pursuant to a prior understanding, [~~he or she~~] such person pays a fee, or anything of value, to another person as compensation for such person or a third person having engaged in sexual conduct with [~~him or her~~] such principal person; or

(b) [~~He or she~~] Such person pays or agrees to pay a fee, or anything of value, to another person pursuant to an understanding that in return therefor such person or a third person will engage in sexual conduct with [~~him or her~~] such principal person; or

(c) [~~He or she~~] Such person solicits or requests another person to engage in sexual conduct with [~~him or her~~] such principal person in return for a fee, or anything of value.

2. As used in this article[~~,~~]:

(a) [~~"person~~] "Person who is patronized" means the person with whom the defendant engaged in sexual conduct or was to have engaged in sexual conduct pursuant to the understanding, or the person who was solicited or requested by the defendant to engage in sexual conduct.

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

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

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

§ 230.15 Promoting prostitution; definitions of terms.

The following definitions are applicable to this article:

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

2. "Profit from prostitution." A person "profits from prostitution" when, acting other than as a person in prostitution receiving compensation for personally rendered prostitution services, [~~he or she~~] **such person** accepts or receives money or other property pursuant to an agreement or understanding with any person whereby [~~he or she~~] **such principal person** participates or is to participate in the proceeds of prostitution activity.

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

§ 4. Section 230.34-a of the penal law, as added by chapter 189 of the laws of 2018, is amended to read as follows:

§ 230.34-a Sex trafficking of a child.

1. A person is guilty of sex trafficking of a child when [~~he or she~~] **such person**, being twenty-one years old or more, intentionally advances or profits from prostitution of another person [~~and such person~~] **who** is a child less than eighteen years old. Knowledge by the defendant of the age of such child is not an element of this offense and it is not a defense to a prosecution therefor that the defendant did not know the age of the child or believed such age to be eighteen or over.

2. For purposes of this section:

(a) A person "advances prostitution" when, acting other than as a person in prostitution [~~or as a patron thereof~~], and with intent to cause prostitution, [~~he or she~~] **such person** directly engages in conduct that facilitates an act or enterprise of prostitution.

(b) A person "profits from prostitution" when, acting other than as a person in prostitution receiving compensation for personally rendered prostitution services, and with intent to facilitate prostitution, [~~he or she~~] **such person** accepts or receives money or other property pursuant to an agreement or understanding with any person whereby [~~he or she~~] **such person** participates in the proceeds of prostitution activity.

Sex trafficking of a child is a class B felony.

§ 5. This act shall take effect immediately.