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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2015

A N A C T

RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- COMMERCIAL SEXUAL ACTIVITY

Introduced By: Representatives Roberts, Nardolillo, Costa, Morgan, and Giarrusso

Date Introduced: February 25, 2015

Referred To: House Judiciary

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 11-34.1-7 of the General Laws in Chapter 11-34.1 entitled
2 "Commercial Sexual Activity" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **11-34.1-7. Pandering or permitting prostitution -- Not allowed. --** (a) It shall be
4 unlawful for any person, by any promise or threat, by abuse of person, or by any other device or
5 scheme, to cause, induce, persuade, or encourage a person to become a prostitute or to come into
6 this state or leave this state for the purpose of prostitution. It shall be unlawful for any person to
7 receive or give, or agree to receive or give, any money or thing of value for procuring or
8 attempting to procure any person to become a prostitute or to come into this state or leave this
9 state for the purpose of prostitution.

10 (b) It shall be unlawful for any person, including, but not limited to, landlords, business
11 owners, and managers of any business, to knowingly permit, allow, transport, or offer or agree to
12 receive any person into any place, structure, house, building, room, or business for the purpose of
13 committing any commercial sexual activity, or knowingly permit any person to remain in the
14 premises for those purposes, or to, in any way, aid or abet or participate in any of the acts or
15 things enumerated in this chapter. Any person, including, but not limited to, landlords, business
16 owners, and managers of any business, knowing a person to be a prostitute, who shall live or
17 derive support or maintenance, in whole or in part, from the earnings or proceeds of commercial
18 sexual activity, from moneys loaned, advanced to, or charged against the prostitute by a landlord,
19 manager, owner of a spa or business, or any other place where commercial sexual activity is

1 practiced or allowed, or who shall share in the earnings, proceeds, or moneys shall be guilty of
2 the crime of permitting prostitution.

3 (c) Every person who commits any of the offenses described in subsection (a) of this
4 section, or who assists, abets, or aids another to commit any of those offenses, shall be guilty of
5 pandering. For the first offense, that person shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than
6 one year and not more than five (5) years and a fine of not less than two thousand dollars
7 (\$2,000), nor more than five thousand dollars (\$5,000). For every subsequent offense, that person
8 shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than three (3) years and not more than ten (10)
9 years and a fine of not less than five thousand dollars (\$5,000), nor more than ten thousand
10 dollars (\$10,000).

11 (d) Any proceeds derived directly from a violation of this section are subject to seizure
12 and forfeiture and further proceedings shall be required for their forfeiture as is prescribed by law
13 in chapter 21 of title 12.

14 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF

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1 This act would include landlords, business owners, and business managers in the category
2 of persons who may be charged with the crime of knowingly allowing prostitution or sharing in
3 the earnings, proceeds, or any money derived from prostitution.

4 This act would take effect upon passage.

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