

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

An Act To Prohibit the Promotion of Travel for Sex Tourism

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 10 MRSA §1141, sub-§3-A is enacted to read:

3-A. Travel for commercial sexual purposes. "Travel for commercial sexual purposes" means travel, transportation or vacation services provided for the purposes of enabling the customer to engage in prostitution or engage a prostitute as defined in Title 17-A, section 851 or to engage in a sexual act, sexual contact or sexual touching, as defined in Title 17-A, section 251, for which anything of value is given to, promised or received by a person.

Sec. 2. 10 MRSA §1144 is enacted to read:

§ 1144. Engaging in travel for commercial sexual purposes

1. Violation. A provider of travel services or a travel agent is guilty of engaging in travel for commercial sexual purposes if the travel agency or agent intentionally or knowingly advertises or furnishes travel, transportation or vacation services for travel for commercial sexual purposes.

2. Penalty. Engaging in travel for commercial sexual purposes is a Class C crime.

Sec. 3. Maine Revised Statutes headnote amended; revision clause. In the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 10, chapter 202-B, in the chapter headnote, the words "prohibited credit card practices involving providers of travel services" are amended to read "prohibited practices involving providers of travel services" and the Revisor of Statutes shall implement this revision when updating, publishing or republishing the statutes.

SUMMARY

This bill, which is based on a law passed in Washington State, prohibits travel agencies within the State from engaging in travel for commercial sexual purposes. "Travel for commercial sexual purposes" is defined as advertising or arranging for travel with the intention of enabling the customer to engage in prostitution or to engage a prostitute or to engage in a sexual act, sexual contact or sexual touching for which anything of value is given, promised or received. The bill also makes a violation of this prohibition a Class C crime, with a penalty of up to 5 years in prison and up to a \$5,000 fine.