



One Hundred First Legislature - First Session - 2009
Introducer's Statement of Intent
LB 444

Chairperson: Tim Gay
Committee: Health and Human Services
Date of Hearing: March 4, 2009

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

Legislative Bill 444 adopts the Escort Services Accountability and Licensing Act.

This act defines escort and creates a licensing structure for escort agencies and their employees. It is the intent of the bill to bring accountability to the industry, and lessen the negative secondary effects such businesses cause in communities across the state.

The private nature in which employees of such businesses work creates a climate where the line between legal and illegal activities is easily crossed. Prostitution and other crimes are notoriously connected to many of these businesses. In addition, and maybe most importantly, evidence is emerging that some of these businesses may be engaging in the victimization of women and underage girls and boys through *human trafficking*.

LB 444 makes it unlawful for a person to operate an escort agency without a license, for an escort agency to employ an individual who is not a licensed escort agency employee, for a person to hold themselves out as an escort agency or use or display the words escort agency without a license, and for a person to act as an escort agency employee without a license. A violation of an escort agency license is a Class II misdemeanor, and a violation of an escort agency employee license is a Class IV misdemeanor.

In addition, LB 444 would require an escort agency to maintain an up-to-date registry of all patrons for the preceding seven years.

Principal Introducer: _____
Senator Mark Christensen