

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
HOUSE JUDICIARY STANDING COMMITTEE**

March 20, 2023

1:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Sarah Vance, Chair
Representative Jamie Allard, Vice Chair
Representative Ben Carpenter
Representative Craig Johnson
Representative David Eastman
Representative Andrew Gray
Representative Cliff Groh

MEMBERS ABSENT

All members present

COMMITTEE CALENDAR

PRESENTATION(S): GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON HUMAN AND SEX
TRAFFICKING STATS

- HEARD

HOUSE BILL NO. 68

"An Act relating to sex trafficking; establishing the crime of patron of a victim of sex trafficking; relating to the crime of human trafficking; relating to prostitution; relating to sentencing for sex trafficking, patron of a victim of sex trafficking, and human trafficking; establishing the process for vacating judgments for certain convictions of prostitution and misconduct involving a controlled substance; relating to the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault; relating to permanent fund dividends for certain individuals whose convictions are vacated; and providing for an effective date."

- HEARD & HELD

PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION

BILL: HB 68

SHORT TITLE: CRIME OF SEX/HUMAN TRAFFICKING

SPONSOR(S): RULES BY REQUEST OF THE GOVERNOR

02/08/23 (H) READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS

02/08/23 (H) JUD, FIN
03/10/23 (H) JUD AT 1:00 PM GRUENBERG 120
03/10/23 (H) Heard & Held
03/10/23 (H) MINUTE (JUD)
03/20/23 (H) JUD AT 1:00 PM GRUENBERG 120

WITNESS REGISTER

KATIE TEPAS, Staff; Program Coordinator
Governor's Council on Human and Sex Trafficking;
Division of Alaska State Troopers
Department of Public Safety
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Co-provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Governor's Council on Human and Sex Trafficking and its data summary.

HEATHER HAGELBERGER, Program Coordinator
Covenant House
Wasilla, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Co-provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Governor's Council on Human and Sex Trafficking and its data summary.

ANNA TAYLOR, Supervising Attorney
Alaska Institute for Justice
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Co-provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Governor's Council on Human and Sex Trafficking and its data summary.

KIRA BISHOP, Deputy Director
Division of Juvenile Justice
Department of Family and Community Services
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Co-provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Governor's Council on Human and Sex Trafficking and its data summary.

KIM GUAY, Division Director
Office of Children's Services
Department of Family and Community Services
Anchorage, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Co-provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Governor's Council on Human and Sex Trafficking and its data summary.

DIANE CAST, Executive Director
Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
Department of Public Safety
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Co-provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Governor's Council on Human and Sex Trafficking and its data summary.

JOHN SKIDMORE, Deputy Attorney General
Criminal Division
Department of Law
Juneau, Alaska

POSITION STATEMENT: Provided information during the hearing on HB 68, on behalf of the bill sponsor, House Rules by request of the governor.

ACTION NARRATIVE

[1:00:38 PM](#)

CHAIR SARAH VANCE called the House Judiciary Standing Committee meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Representatives Gray, Groh, Allard, and Vance were present at the call to order. Representatives Carpenter, C. Johnson, and Eastman arrived as the meeting was in progress.

PRESENTATION(S): Governor's Council on Human and Sex Trafficking Stats

[1:01:45 PM](#)

CHAIR VANCE announced that the first order of business would be the Governor's Council on Human and Sex Trafficking Stats presentation.

[1:02:15 PM](#)

KATIE TEPAS, Staff, Program Coordinator, Governor's Council on Human and Sex Trafficking, Division of Alaska State Troopers, Department of Public Safety (DPS), co-provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Governor's Council on Human and Sex Trafficking and its data summary [hard copy included in the committee packet]. She noted that she would give an overview and then five individuals will speak to specific data sets. She began on slide 2 and stated that the data on human sex trafficking was released March 2023. She reminded the committee that the council was created by administrative order to look at

gaps in trafficking information and data, with the requirement that all data sets be represented in one location. She noted that the data has been compiled into a data summary document. She stated that this is a public document found on DPS's website. She explained that each agency listed on slide 4 and slide 5 has its own data sets, as seen on slide 6. She added that the definitions used by each entity may vary. She noted that the data has not been compiled into trends as of yet.

[1:07:36 PM](#)

HEATHER HAGELBERGER, Program Coordinator, Covenant House, co-provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Governor's Council on Human and Sex Trafficking and its data summary. She moved to slide 7, which outlined the data collected from Covenant House. Slide 7 read as follows [original punctuation provided]:

Demographics

- Total youth served: 750
- 203 unduplicated youths were screened
- 74 answered at least one trafficking question affirmatively
- 50 completed the Trafficking Victim Screening tool
- 22 youth had a likely/certain screening score for sex trafficking
- 4 youth had a likely/certain screening score for labor trafficking

Risk Factors

- Identified three common factors amongst most challenging clients, and of these, 75% of victims have two or more of the following:
 - Less than one permanent connection in their life
 - Suffered from disorders such as substance abuse, mental health or behavioral conditions
 - Had an income of less than \$1,341 monthly

[1:10:07 PM](#)

ANNA TAYLOR, Supervising Attorney, Alaska Institute for Justice (AIJ), co-provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Governor's Council on Human and Sex Trafficking and its data summary. She stated that AIJ provides legal services for underserved and limited English speakers who are survivors of human trafficking and other crimes. She discussed the data collected from AIJ on slide 8. She pointed out that there were 182 instances of labor

trafficking, 75 people who experienced both labor and sex trafficking, and 16 people who experienced sex trafficking.

MS. TAYLOR, in response to a committee question, explained that a unit is 15 minutes of legal services, and AIJ provided over 3,465 units of legal services to trafficking survivors, with 243 units to ongoing case management. She pointed out that there were 80 units for translation purposes, with 41 units of other services, which can include emotional support.

MS. TAYLOR, in response to a committee question concerning sex trafficking versus labor trafficking, expressed hesitancy to generalize on a small amount of data. She suggested that non-English speakers could be more vulnerable to labor trafficking, and this reflects the work that AIJ does. In response to a follow-up question, she stated that "n=182" on the graph represents discrete types of victimization.

[1:16:32 PM](#)

KIRA BISHOP, Deputy Director, Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), Department of Family and Community Services, co-provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Governor's Council on Human and Sex Trafficking and its data summary. She stated that DDJ has been addressing trauma-informed care with youth, and in 2020 a data screening tool was implemented. She moved to slide 9, which featured a graph of data collected from the trauma screening tool. She pointed out that the questions used with the tool address physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, as well as neglect. She noted that some of the numbers on the graph could be duplicated. She indicated that the data presented represents a specific question asked on the tool, which is whether an individual has ever traded sex for anything, such as food, shelter, drugs, alcohol, or a ride. She noted the responses to this question: 2020 there were 21 "yes" responses, 2021 there were 19 "yes" responses, and in 2022 there were 10 "yes" responses.

MS. BISHOP, in response to a committee question concerning a trade of money for sex, expressed uncertainty, as the tool only provided examples.

CHAIR VANCE, in looking at the proposed legislation [HB 68], observed the numerous definitions of prostitution, and she noted that from recent testimony sex was often exchanged for drugs. She expressed the importance of understanding what is being exchanged on the streets. She questioned the origin of the

numbers representing those screened, and she questioned why the numbers increased through the years represented.

MS. BISHOP explained that any youth who entered a juvenile detention center and stayed over 24 hours would be screened. She continued that any youth on probation who receives a formal adjudication would also be screened. She stated that any youth entering DJJ secure treatment facility would also be screened. She explained that because of this process of screening, the data could be duplicative. In response to a follow-up question, she stated that DJJ takes referrals from police departments, and these referrals would be for individuals up to the age of 18 years old; however, if a youth is already under supervision, jurisdiction can be extended to individuals who are 19 and 20 years old.

MS. BISHOP, in response to a committee question, expressed uncertainty concerning whether there is a correlation between the decreasing "yes" responses and the increase in the screening numbers. She noted that the process is new and DJJ has not been able to look further at this.

MS. BISHOP, in response to a committee question, explained in general there are 15 questions the tool uses, and she described several of the other questions asked in the questionnaire.

CHAIR VANCE reiterated that this is very recent data, and it has not been analyzed thoroughly.

[1:25:44 PM](#)

KIM GUAY, Division Director, Office of Children's Services (OCS), Department of Family and Community Services, co-provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Governor's Council on Human and Sex Trafficking and its data summary. She moved to slide 10, which provided data points collected by OCS over five years from cases with sex trafficking characteristics. She explained the origins and the distinguished aspects of the data, as seen on the slide, which read as follows [original punctuation provided]:

Data from Cases with Sex Trafficking Characteristics
Total reports: 296
Total cases: 266
Total children: 55 (a child may be in more than one case)
Distinct children: 47

Investigations: 60

MS. GUAY, in response to a committee question, explained that the difference between "total cases" and "distinct children" is that a case would typically belong to the parents, or if the parents' rights have been terminated, to the child. She explained that "distinct children" represents the actual individual children who have been reported to be trafficked. She expressed the opinion that the data can be confusing. She responded that "total children" could include the same child that has been reported more than once.

MS. GUAY, in response to a committee question, stated that the typical reporter in these cases would be law enforcement, family members, or close friends of the family.

MS. GUAY, in response to a committee question, acknowledged that the training OCS staff receives to recognize victims of trafficking may not be sufficient. She discussed the current training system. She addressed the safeguards, specifically surrounding fostered youth.

[1:33:01 PM](#)

DIANE CASTO, Executive Director, Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (CDVSA), Department of Public Safety, co-provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Governor's Council on Human and Sex Trafficking and its data summary. She acknowledged that the data on human and sex trafficking would not be consistent across the board yet. She further noted that the data presented today is only a small amount of what is included in the report.

MS. CASTO stated that CDVSA provides services to victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence. She described some of these services. She pointed out that victims' fear factor is why many are not referred to CDVSA. On slide 11, she pointed out the graph showing sex trafficking victimization by region and year. She stated that this was collected by CDVSA's victim service programs. She directed attention to page 21 of the CDVSA's Annual Report, which lists all its services and people who received these services. She noted that only a small number of individuals who are victims of sex and human trafficking report to CDVSA, and she expressed the opinion that this is partly because of the poor quality of screening tools. She reiterated that this data is limited and the capability to screen for this is limited. She pointed out that non-English or

limited English speaking individuals are at higher risk, and she discussed the CDVSA's interactive program that translates information.

MS. CASTO, in response to a committee request per the graph on slide 11, stated that Anchorage has its own data and Southcentral has separate data. In respect to the increase in victimization in Southcentral and the decrease in victimization in Anchorage, she expressed uncertainty, and she declined to speculate. She noted the huge spike in victimization in Anchorage from 2016 to 2018, and she stated that there is not enough data to clarify why.

CHAIR VANCE suggested that the COVID-19 pandemic may have impacted the victimization data, as services had been halted. She expressed concern that masks may have aided victimization.

MS. CASTO expressed the importance of the impacts of COVID-19 on victims and discussed how this had impacted the shelters.

[1:45:58 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE GROH directed attention to the numbers on page 21 of the CDVSA Annual Report. He compared rates of family violence with those of sex trafficking on slide 11, noting the substantial difference. He questioned this difference.

MS. CASTO expressed the understanding that the numbers are not comparable. She explained that the data [on the slide] represents a small amount of the people served. She pointed out that trafficking is not highlighted [in the annual report]. In response to a follow-up question, she stated that she began working in childhood abuse prevention in 1978 and she has been at the CDVSA for almost six years.

REPRESENTATIVE GROH questioned whether domestic violence in Alaska is more common than human sex trafficking.

MS. CASTO responded that the question is difficult because sex trafficking is hidden. She opined that it is clear there is a problem that needs to be addressed, but as a state it is difficult to say the problem is growing because there is no past data to compare. Noting the past week of hearings on human sex trafficking, she expressed the opinion that this indicates there is a serious problem. She pointed out that the role of the Council on Human and Sex Trafficking would be to keep the focus on the issue.

REPRESENTATIVE GROH expressed the opinion that domestic and family violence and sexual assault occurs outside of the context of human sex trafficking, and this is because human sex trafficking is more sophisticated and hidden.

[1:53:39 PM](#)

MS. TEPAS moved to slide 12 and directed attention to the data summary document, which gives more detailed data on human sex trafficking risk factors. She highlighted runaway data, adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) information, and data from the Alaska Victimization Survey. She tied higher rates of victimization to vulnerabilities and risk factors, such as substance abuse. She acknowledged that the data or the screening tools were not as robust as they should be. She pointed out that many victims of sex trafficking do not recognize themselves as such. She discussed the overlap between data and the importance of differentiating between domestic violence and trafficking.

MS. TEPAS reiterated that there is some data, but it is not robust. She stressed that the work to collect data must continue, explaining that the Council on Human and Sex Trafficking should be put into statute. She discussed the recommendations, which include more screening tools that are consistent; more work on distinguishing domestic violence cases from human sex trafficking cases; and the addition of a member from the Department of Labor and Workforce Development to the council, if the council goes into statute. She added that DJJ and OCS also would need a member on the council.

[1:59:48 PM](#)

CHAIR VANCE questioned why there needs to be both CDVSA and the Council on Human & Sex Trafficking.

MS. TEPAS clarified that the Council on Human and Sex Trafficking would be an umbrella entity to help move projects forward, while CDVSA would provide the responsibility for funding and grants. She further explained this reasoning. In response to a follow-up question on the differences in the definitions used by each organization, she said that there may never be one specific definition because the definitions differ in federal and state statute. She gave examples of why this exists. She emphasized the importance of using descriptive definitions and consistency in the screening tools. In

response, she stated that data was generated in 2014 by a taskforce, with many key stakeholders interviewed.

MS. TEPAS, in response to a question concerning data presented in a previous presentation from Priceless Alaska, stated that the zero prosecutions shown only reflects clients served by Priceless Alaska.

REPRESENTATIVE C. JOHNSON expressed concern on the zero-prosecution data, stressing the importance of addressing this issue.

CHAIR VANCE offered concluding comments and thanked the presenters.

[2:07:54 PM](#)

The committee took an at-ease from 2:07 p.m. to 2:08 p.m.

HB 68-CRIME OF SEX/HUMAN TRAFFICKING

[2:08:40 PM](#)

CHAIR VANCE announced that the final order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 68, "An Act relating to sex trafficking; establishing the crime of patron of a victim of sex trafficking; relating to the crime of human trafficking; relating to prostitution; relating to sentencing for sex trafficking, patron of a victim of sex trafficking, and human trafficking; establishing the process for vacating judgments for certain convictions of prostitution and misconduct involving a controlled substance; relating to the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault; relating to permanent fund dividends for certain individuals whose convictions are vacated; and providing for an effective date."

[2:09:36 PM](#)

JOHN SKIDMORE, Deputy Attorney General, Criminal Division, Department of Law, provided information during the hearing on HB 68, on behalf of the House Rules Standing Committee, sponsor by request of the governor. He directed attention to a document, titled "HB 68 Human and Sex Trafficking," [hard copy included in the committee packet]. He stated that this document provides a summary of what the proposed legislation would do, but he advised that the document is not comprehensive, and with any detailed questions the legislation itself should be referred to.

MR. SKIDMORE directed attention to the left-hand column on page 1 of the document, which outlined how the crimes of sex trafficking in the first, second, and third degree would be addressed by the proposed legislation. He explained the details and definitions of the unclassified and classified crimes associated with sex trafficking. He differentiated between the charges in relation to the use of force and whether the victim was of legal age. He reiterated the importance of looking at definitions when trying to understand the legislation.

[2:14:23 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CARPENTER asked how forcing a person to take a controlled substance would be prosecuted.

MR. SKIDMORE explained that this would not fall under force, but in the other elements of inducing or causing. He directed attention to the bottom of page 2 of the document, which listed seven factors associated with inducing or causing. Included in the list was "providing a controlled substance to or withholding a controlled substance from the other person." He provided the statute that defines "force" in Alaska. In response to a follow-up question, he confirmed that the distribution of controlled substances is a crime defined in statute. He reiterated that when the distribution of a controlled substance is done for the purpose of "inducing or causing" another person to engage in sex trafficking or human trafficking, that offense would be elevated to a more serious crime.

[2:16:46 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CARPENTER inquired about the distinction between "providing" and "forcing" someone to take a drug, in terms of the severity of the punishment.

MR. SKIDMORE expressed uncertainty whether forcing someone to take a drug is expressly addressed in statute. In response to a follow-up question, he stated that an individual who forced another person to take drugs would be guilty of distribution. CHAIR VANCE recalled the testimony from a survivor of sex trafficking that recounted the forceful injection of a controlled substance against her will. She asked whether this conduct is addressed in statute.

MR. SKIDMORE expressed the understanding that this could be prosecuted as an assault in addition to misconduct concerning a

controlled substance; however, he stated that he would need to review the statutes on this.

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REPRESENTATIVE EASTMAN expressed the understanding that forceful injection would qualify as an assault. He questioned whether there is something in statute or in the proposed legislation that would capture the second action.

MR. SKIDMORE expressed uncertainty and reiterated that he would have to review the statutes. He further discussed the definition of "serious physical injury" in statute. He stated that there would have to be analysis on whether the drugs amounted to a serious physical injury, and this would need to be done on a case-by-case basis.

[2:20:39 PM](#)

MR. SKIDMORE returned attention to page 1 of the document and proceeded to the next column to describe the crime of being a patron of a victim of sex trafficking. He stated that this shows how the classification of the crimes committed by patrons of victims of sex trafficking would be addressed. He stated that these would be considered sex felonies; therefore, subject to the more serious penalty described under the previous column.

[2:22:11 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE GRAY considered a scenario in which a patron of sex trafficking asked the victim whether he/she was a victim of sex trafficking and the victim answered "no." He asked whether that would be sufficient proof against exhibiting "reckless disregard".

MR. SKIDMORE said he could not answer that question "in a vacuum," as it would depend on circumstances.

CHAIR VANCE recalled that testimony from the Alaska State Troopers had indicated many patrons do not realize that sex workers could be victims of sex trafficking. She questioned the likelihood that a regular patron would fall under one of the seven [factors of inducing or causing].

MR. SKIDMORE expressed uncertainty concerning a percentage; however, he emphasized that it is illegal to purchase sex from another individual. He explained that establishing "reckless

disregard" would be difficult and would need to be analyzed on a case-by-case basis. In response to a follow-up question, he explained that HB 68 would increase the penalty of purchasing sex from a Class B misdemeanor to a Class A misdemeanor. The selling of sex, he said, would remain a Class B misdemeanor. He elaborated on the classifications.

[2:28:39 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE CARPENTER asked how two 17-year-old individuals engaged in the selling and purchasing of sex would be prosecuted.

MR. SKIDMORE explained that the seller could be guilty of prostitution and charged with a Class B misdemeanor, whereas the purchaser could be guilty of prostitution and charged with a Class A misdemeanor.

REPRESENTATIVE CARPENTER pointed out that the 17-year-old individuals are under 18 years of age.

MR. SKIDMORE clarified his misstatement, acknowledging that both individuals could be guilty of patronizing a victim of sex trafficking.

REPRESENTATIVE CARPENTER sought to confirm that the person selling sex would be penalized less severely than the person buying it.

MR. SKIDMORE confirmed the statement.

[2:31:42 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE GRAY inquired about a scenario in which an underaged sex worker lied about his/her age.

MR. SKIDMORE directed attention to page 4, line 14 of the bill, under the provision for patron of a victim of sex trafficking, which read as follows:

- (b) In a prosecution under (a)(2) of this section, it is an affirmative defense that, at the time of the alleged offense, the defendant
 - (1) reasonably believed the person to be 18 years of age or older; and
 - (2) undertook reasonable measures to verify that the person was 18 years of age or older.

REPRESENTATIVE GRAY opined that more responsibility should be put on the patrons of prostitution. He expressed concern that the burden of proof for "reckless disregard" was essentially a "get out of jail free card" for those purchasing sex. He inquired about the inclusion of the word "reckless".

MR. SKIDMORE defined "reckless" as the mens rea, or the mental state of the perpetrator, which is an essential element of anything in a criminal statute. He stated that the totality of the circumstances would need to be investigated.

[2:35:05 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE EASTMAN asked about the importance of a victim's mindset in identifying themselves as a victim of sex trafficking and whether it could impact prosecution.

MR. SKIDMORE agreed that this would complicate any prosecution if the victim did not identify themselves as a victim of sex trafficking. He reiterated that it would depend on the totality of circumstances.

[2:39:11 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE GROH directed attention to Section 4 of HB 68 and sought to verify that the presumptive sentence for an unclassified felony was 20 to 99 years.

MR. SKIDMORE clarified that the penalty for sex trafficking in the first degree, as proposed in the legislation, would be an unclassified felony with a presumptive sentencing range of 20 to 30 years for a first offense, with a maximum of 99 years.

REPRESENTATIVE GROH referenced subsection (a), paragraph (3), in Section 4 of the bill, which provides that a person commits the crime of sex trafficking in the first degree if the person manages, supervises, controls, or owns, or is in association with a prostitution enterprise or a place of prostitution. He sought to verify that neither force nor age was referenced in this provision.

MR. SKIDMORE confirmed that the provision would not carry the element of force or being under the age of 20; nonetheless, it is referring to instances in which the selling of sex as an enterprise is expanded.

[2:44:52 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE GROH considered a scenario in which one sex worker referred a client to another sex worker. He asked whether this could be considered "organizing" for commercial sexual conduct.

MR. SKIDMORE answered in the negative, as making references or sharing references would not be considered "organized;" however, coming together as partners would be considered organized.

REPRESENTATIVE GROH clarified the hypothetical scenario and asked whether it would be considered organized.

MR. SKIDMORE reiterated that as a prosecutor, he would not feel comfortable prosecuting the case.

REPRESENTATIVE GROH pointed out that there are various references to "value" in the proposed legislation. He asked whether the distinction between more or less than \$200 would be based on the price charged.

MR. SKIDMORE clarified that \$200 was based on the cost of moving a sex worker from one major hub community in Alaska to another. Whether this demarcation is sufficient, he said, would be a policy call.

[2:48:06 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE ALLARD observed that alcohol and kidnapping are not referenced in the bill. She asked for the rationale.

MR. SKIDMORE pointed out that providing alcohol to another person is not illegal unless the person is a minor; nonetheless, he acknowledged that this could be a considerable factor in a coercive situation. He discussed kidnapping, noting that the crime of kidnapping is an unclassified felony under AS 11.41.300. He stated that adding this to the bill would be a policy call. In response to a follow-up question, he stated that the addition of kidnapping or the use of alcohol in relation to sex trafficking could increase the sentencing. He indicated that the answer was circumstantial and would require complex analysis.

[2:53:20 PM](#)

REPRESENTATIVE GRAY expressed concern that a sex worker who engaged his/her friend to come along on a job could be guilty of "organizing" [a prostitution enterprise] and charged with an unclassified felony. He asked whether this could be a likely outcome.

MR. SKIDMORE confirmed that as a prosecutor, he would consider the two sex workers in the hypothetical scenario as organized. He added that whether the sex workers would be convicted of sex trafficking depends on the court, the jury, and plea negotiations. He reiterated that this would also be up to how the legislature classifies these crimes.

REPRESENTATIVE GRAY suggested that a sex worker may be safer with a friend. He expressed interest in amending the language.

REPRESENTATIVE ALLARD disagreed with Representative Gray's perspective. She expressed alarm that this could "shut the bill down." She expressed support for the legislation and questioned why she is getting inundated with emails concerning this topic.

MR. SKIDMORE encouraged legislators to carefully consider the source of the information they receive. He addressed a past effort to legalize prostitution, recognizing misrepresentation of the law concerning this.

CHAIR VANCE announced that HB 68 was held over.

[3:00:21 PM](#)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the committee, the House Judiciary Standing Committee meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.