Bill No. 39-15

Concerning: Offenses – Purchase of Prostitution – Prohibited

Revised: 11-9-15 Draft No. 7

Introduced: September 29, 2015

Enacted: November 17, 2015

Executive: November 24, 2015

Effective: February 23, 2016

Sunset Date: None

Ch. 52 , Laws of Mont. Co. 2015

**County Council**

**For Montgomery County, Maryland**

Lead Sponsors: Councilmembers Hucker and Rice

 Co-sponsor: Councilmembers Navarro, Riemer, Berliner, Elrich, Katz, and Council Vice President Floreen

**AN ACT** to:

1. prohibit the purchase of prostitution;
2. establish enforcement procedures and penalties; and
3. generally amend County law relating to offenses.

By adding

 Montgomery County Code

 Chapter 32, Offenses – Purchase of Prostitution

 Section 32-23A

**Boldface** *Heading or defined term.*

Underlining *Added to existing law by original bill.*

**[**Single boldface brackets**]** *Deleted from existing law by original bill.*

Double underlining *Added by amendment.*

**[[**Double boldface brackets**]]** *Deleted from existing law or the bill by amendment.*

\* \* \* *Existing law unaffected by bill.*

 **[[**Double boldface brackets**]]** *Deleted from existing law or the bill by amendment.*

\* \* \* *Existing law unaffected by bill.*

*The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following Act:*

 **Sec 1. Sections 32-23A is added as follows:**

**32-23A. Purchase of prostitution.**

(a) **Findings.**

(1) Due to its location on the I-95 corridor, low crime rate, and high disposable income, Montgomery County has become a prime location for human trafficking;

(2) a significant number of prostitutes working in Montgomery County are victims of human trafficking; and

(3) the United States Department of Justice has found strong evidence to support a demand-reduction approach to combatting human trafficking.

(b) **Definitions.**

In this Section, the following terms have the meanings indicated:

*Human trafficking* means the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.

*Prostitution* means the performance of a sexual act, sexual contact, or vaginal intercourse for hire.

*Purchase* means to offer or agree to pay money or something of value to another person in return for a service.

*Sexual act* has the meaning stated in Md. Criminal Law Art. §3-301, as amended.

*Sexual contact* has the meaning stated in Md. Criminal Law Art. §3-301, as amended.

*Vaginal intercourse* has the meaning stated in Md. Criminal Law Art. §3-301, as amended.

**[[**(b)**]]** (c) **Prohibition.** A person must not purchase prostitution in the County.

**[[**(c)**]]** (d) **Enforcement; penalties.**

(1) A police officer may issue a civil citation or a criminal citation to a person whom the officer reasonably believes has violated this Section.

(2) A violation of this Section is a Class A violation.

*Approved:*

/s/ 11/18/15

George Leventhal, President, County Council Date

*Approved:*

/s/ 11/24/15

Isiah Leggett, County Executive Date

*This is a correct copy of Council action.*

/s/ 11/27/15

Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council Date