

Executive Summary: Health Impact Review of HB 1382

Increasing access to emergency assistance for victims by providing immunity from prosecution for prostitution offenses in some circumstances (2019 Legislative Session)

Evidence indicates that HB 1382 has the potential to increase access to and use of emergency assistance for people in the sex trade who are victims of violent offenses, which in turn has the potential to improve physical and mental health outcomes and decrease health inequities for this population and by gender identity and race/ethnicity.

BILL INFORMATION

Sponsors: Pellicciotti, Kraft, Macri, Goodman, Doglio, Pettigrew, Ormsby, Jinkins, Stanford, Appleton, Riccelli

Summary of Bill:

- Provides immunity from prosecution charges to a victim of one of the following offenses, or a person seeking emergency assistance on behalf of the victim: (1) a violent offense as defined in RCW 9.94A.0303; assault in the third degree under RCW 9A36.031; assault in the third degree under RCW 9A.36.041 or an equivalent municipal ordinance; or rape in the third degree under RCW 9A.44.060.

HEALTH IMPACT REVIEW

Summary of Findings:

This Health Impact Review found the following evidence regarding the provisions in HB 1382:

This review makes the informed assumption that providing immunity from prosecution for prostitution charges to a victim or person seeking emergency assistance on behalf of a victim in some circumstances has the potential to improve access to emergency assistance for some people in the sex trade. This informed assumption is based on discussions with key informants at organizations serving people in the sex trade (i.e., by choice, circumstances, or coercion), individuals with lived experience in the sex trade, and staff at the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office and Juvenile Court.

- **Strong evidence** that increased access to and utilization of emergency assistance (specifically medical assistance) would improve health outcomes for people in the sex trade who are victims of violent offenses.
- **Strong evidence** that improving health outcomes for people in the sex trade who are victims of violent offenses would likely decrease health inequities experienced by this population as well as by gender identity and race/ethnicity.

FULL REVIEW

For review methods, logic model, strength-of-evidence analyses, and citations of empirical evidence refer to the full Health Impact Review at

<https://sboh.wa.gov/Portals/7/Doc/HealthImpactReviews/HIR-2019-10-HB1382.pdf>

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