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H.651

SHORT FORM

Introduced by Representatives Browning of Arlington and Sullivan of Dorset

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Professions and occupations; sex workers

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to establish the legislative intent to enact at a future effective date the authority to practice sex work as a regulated profession and as an exception to the crime of prostitution. In anticipation of this new professional regulatory structure, the bill would require the Department of Health, the Office of Professional Regulation, and the Department of Public Safety to jointly propose to the General Assembly the manner in which sex workers should be professionally regulated. The bill would require those agencies to consult with the Joint Fiscal Office to develop a proposal that is based on the following elements:

(1) *Licensure.* An individual would be required to be licensed in order to engage in the authorized practice of sex work. Qualifications for licensure would include a health certification, a criminal background check, and payment of a license fee, and only a limited number of sex worker licenses would be granted.

