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people assuming responsibility for their actions, we all know that in the real world, coercions of various types can be exerted against a woman who may be vulnerable, who may have mental deficiencies, who may be doing this terrible thing to take care of herself and her children. The approach in Senator Synowiecki's underlying bill and this amendment is not one of being judgmental, but to recognize a serious societal problem which has not been comprehensively addressed. The aim is not to be punitive. It is not to create outcasts. It is not to point fingers. It is not to do an updated version of stoning the scarlet woman. In order to clap, it takes two hands. So in addition to showing the way that might help some of these women, instead of just being punitive, this amendment looks at the person called the john, the one who solicits the act of prostitution. That person who commits this offense will be charged with a Class I misdemeanor, and there is a possibility of probation for that rascal also. But if probation is granted, there is a fine that will be imposed. And for a second offense or more--you call these "priors"--there will be a fourth...a Class IV felony as the punishment. But once again, probation would be allowed, but there would be a fine of not less than \$500. And additional conditions of that probation would be that this person attends and successfully complete an appropriate mental health and substance abuse assessment of the kind that the woman would have to complete. A Class II misdemeanor provides a maximum sentence of six months, a \$1,000 fine, or both. A Class I misdemeanor, up to one year, which is the maximum, a \$1,000 fine, or both. A Class IV felony, which is what the repeating john would be hit with, provides imprisonment of one to five years, a \$10,000 fine, or both. There should not be given a free pass to the men, who are the main perpetrators, to my way of thinking. There can be no sale if there are no buyers. And too many times, men of means who ordinarily are considered to be respectable, pillars of society, upper crust, and all those other things, can be found prowling the areas where women who are engaging in prostitution are working. These men have to be shown that the trafficking in female flesh is not going to be tolerated, and that to the extent that laws can make a difference, punishments appropriately applied can make a difference, that is the approach the Legislature will take. But again, because some of these individuals may have some serious