



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2017 Wisconsin Act 128
[2017 Senate Bill 396]

Penalty for Patronizing a Child

Under Wisconsin law, a person who enters or remains in any place of prostitution with intent to have nonmarital sexual intercourse or to commit an act of sexual gratification with a prostitute is guilty of a Class A misdemeanor. A Class A misdemeanor is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$10,000, imprisonment not to exceed nine months, or both.

2017 Wisconsin Act 128 increases the penalty for patronizing a prostitute to a Class G felony if the person patronizes a person who is under the age of 18 (“a child”). A Class G felony is punishable by a fine not to exceed \$25,000, imprisonment not to exceed 10 years, or both.

The Act provides that the prosecution does not need to prove that the actor knew the age of the child when prosecuting the crime of patronizing a child, and that it is not a defense that the actor reasonably believed the person was not a child.

Effective date: December 10, 2017

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature’s Web site at: <http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov>.