

# One Hundred Third Legislature - First Session - 2013

## Introducer's Statement of Intent

### LB314

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**Chairperson: Senator Brad Ashford**

**Committee: Judiciary**

**Date of Hearing: February 20, 2013**

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

Legislative Bill 314, would adopt the Escort Services Accountability and Permit Act.

This act defines escort and creates a permit structure for escort agencies and their employees to be implemented by local governing bodies of counties, cities, and villages only when the local governing body has received a request from a person wanting to operate a escort agency, as defined, within their jurisdiction.

The purpose of the act is for the protection of the economic and social welfare and the health, welfare, and safety of the people of this state. In this context, LB314 seeks to bring accountability to the escort or private erotic entertainment industry, mitigating the negative secondary effects such businesses cause in communities across the state.

Moreover, the private nature in which employees of such businesses work creates a climate where the line between legal and illegal activities is easily crossed. Prostitution and other crimes are notoriously connected to many of these businesses. In addition, and maybe most importantly, evidence is emerging that some of these businesses are engaging in the coercion of women and underage girls and boys through *human trafficking*.

In order to regulate this industry, prevent the flaunting of our sexual assault, human trafficking, and prostitution laws, and provide an additional tool for law enforcement to reach the *operators* skirting these laws, LB314 requires several things.

To obtain an escort agency permit or an escort agency employee permit, the local permit authority would be required to obtain fingerprints; criminal history; proof that all employees, owners, and operators are at least 18 years old; and other pertinent information for the local permit authority to evaluate the applicant.

In addition, LB314 would require an escort agency to provide every patron a written contract for services. The contract shall contain the escort agency employee's name, the name and address of patron, services performed, the length of time of services, the compensation, any special terms, and a statement that prostitution is illegal in this state. A copy of all such

contracts will be provided to the local permit authority monthly, and the contract shall be open to law enforcement review.

**Principal Introducer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Senator Mark Christensen**