
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6737 (as amended by House "A")*

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CRIME OF HARMFUL COMMUNICATION WITH A MINOR.

SUMMARY

This bill establishes a new crime of harmful communication with a minor as a class A misdemeanor (punishable by up to 364 days imprisonment, up to a \$2,000 fine, or both).

Anyone who is age 25 or older is guilty of this crime when the person uses an interactive computer service or text message to knowingly persuade, induce, entice, or coerce a “minor” (i.e., anyone under age 18 or whom the actor reasonably believes to be under age 18) to do the following:

1. share a photographic or recorded image of the minor (a) for sexual gratification of the person who requests the image or (b) which the requestor then disseminates to one or more third persons for their sexual gratification or
2. engage in any communication that is (a) part of a pattern of communication or behavior designed to form or maintain an inappropriate relationship with the minor or (b) “harmful to the minor” (i.e., patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole regarding what is a suitable form of communication between an adult and a minor).

Under the bill, a violation may be deemed to have been committed either at the place where the communication originated or where it was received.

The bill defines an “inappropriate relationship” as a relationship that is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community as

a whole regarding what is a suitable relationship between an adult and a minor. Additionally, an “interactive computer service” is any information service, system, or access software provider that provides or enables computer access by multiple users to a computer server, including a service or system that provides access to the Internet and those systems operated or services offered by libraries or educational institutions (CGS § 53a-90a).

*House Amendment “A” increases the minimum age a person must be to commit the crime, from age 21 to 25.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2023

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 37 Nay 0 (03/27/2023)