
OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5468

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

SUMMARY

This bill establishes a new crime of harmful communication with a minor. Anyone who is age 21 or older is guilty of this crime when the person uses an interactive computer service to knowingly persuade, induce, entice, or coerce a minor (i.e., anyone under age 18 or who the actor reasonably believes to be under age 18) to:

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 (a) of an inappropriate sexual nature with the minor, (b) that is part of a pattern of communication or behavior designed to form or maintain an inappropriate relationship with a minor, or (c) that is harmful to a minor (i.e., communication with a minor using an interactive computer device that is 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.

Under the bill, an “inappropriate relationship” is a relationship that is patently offensive to prevailing standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is a suitable relationship between an adult and a minor. “Interactive computer service” means 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.

Under the bill, harmful communications with a minor is a class D felony (punishable by up to five-years imprisonment, up to a \$5,000 fine, or both).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2022

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 37 Nay 0 (03/31/2022)