

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF LAW CRIMINAL DIVISION

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CSHB 127(JUD) STALKING AND EXPLOITATION OF A MINOR Sectional Analysis

Sections 1 and 2 expand the crime of stalking by amending the definition of “nonconsensual contact”. Stalking prohibits a person from engaging in a course of conduct that places another in fear of death or physical injury. “Course of conduct” is defined as repeated acts of nonconsensual conduct. The bill adds two ways that a defendant may contact a victim that is beyond the victim’s consent. First, it includes following or monitoring the victim with a global positioning device. Second, it includes installing or attempting to install a device for observing, recording, or photographing events in the home, workplace, or vehicle the victim uses, or on the personal telephone or computer that the victim uses.

Section 3 raises the classification of the crime of online enticement of a minor for a person who is not required to register as a sex offender or child kidnapper from a class C felony to a class B felony. This change, in addition to the amendments to AS 12.55.125(i) in the bill, would be to raise the penalty from a range of zero to two years for a first offense (maximum term of five years) to a range of five to 15 years for a first offense (maximum term of 99 years). Also refer to section 12 of this analysis.

Section 4 raises the classification of the crime of online enticement of a minor for a person who is required to register as a sex offender or child kidnapper from a class B felony to a class A felony. This change, in addition to the amendments to AS 12.55.125(i) in the bill, would be to raise the penalty from a range of one to three years (maximum term of 10 years) to a range of 15 to 30 years for a first offense (maximum term of 99 years). Also refer to section 12 of this analysis.

Section 5 raises the classification of the crime of unlawful exploitation of a minor from a class B felony to a class A felony for all offenders. Under current law the offense is a class A felony if the person has previously been convicted of unlawful exploitation of a minor, and it is a class B felony for other offenders. This change, in addition to the amendments to AS 12.55.125(i) in the bill, would be to raise the penalty from a range of two to 12 years or five to 15 years (depending on whether it is a first or second offense) to a range of 15 to 30 years for a first offense. Also refer to section 12 of this analysis.

Section 6 amends the crime of endangering the welfare of a child in the first degree by prohibiting a parent or guardian from leaving a child under 16 years of age with a person who is required to register as a child kidnapper or is charged with child kidnapping. The

law currently prohibits a parent or guardian from leaving a child with a person required to register as a sex offender or who is charged with a sex offense.

Section 7 adopts a new crime – sending an explicit image of a minor. It would prohibit a person, acting with the intent to annoy or humiliate another person, from distributing an electronic photograph or video that depicts an image of a minor’s genitals, anus, or female breast taken when the minor was under 16 years of age. The prohibited conduct would be a class B misdemeanor (maximum term of imprisonment 90 days) if the person distributes the image to one or more other persons, and a class A misdemeanor (maximum term of imprisonment one year) if the person distributes the image to an Internet website that is accessible to the public.

Section 8 makes a conforming amendment to AS 11.61.120(a)(6), harassment in the second degree, to make it clear that the new crime of sending an explicit image of a minor in **Section 7** are not included in the crime of harassment in the second degree.

Section 9 adopts two new crimes – misconduct involving confidential information in the first and second degrees. The second degree offense prohibits a person from obtaining the confidential information about another person without legal authority or consent to do so. This conduct would be a class B misdemeanor (maximum term of imprisonment 90 days).

Misconduct involving confidential information in the first degree would prohibit a person from violating the second degree prohibition *and* using the confidential information to commit a crime or to obtain a benefit to which a person is not entitled, or injure or deprive another person of a benefit. This conduct would be a class A misdemeanor (maximum term of imprisonment one year).

Section 10 clarifies that a person may be prosecuted for online enticement of a minor and for sending an explicit image of a minor if the minor whose image is published, or with whom the person communicated, was in this state, even if the defendant was in another jurisdiction at the time he or she committed the prohibited acts.

Section 11 amends AS 12.55.125(i) (terms of imprisonment for persons who commit sex offenses) by conforming the terms of imprisonment for persons who commit unlawful exploitation of a minor or online enticement of a minor to the correct level in accord with the changes in **Sections 3 – 5** of the bill.

Section 12 clarifies the law by stating that while the Commissioner of Corrections provides probation officers to the superior court for the active supervision of person on probation for felony offenses, the Commissioner may, at his or her discretion, also provide probation officers for the active supervision of persons released for misdemeanor offenses.

Section 13 redrafts the law enacted last year allowing the Attorney General to issue administrative subpoenas for law enforcement to obtain limited information from an Internet service provider if there is probable cause to believe that an Internet service account has been used in connection with the crimes of online enticement of a minor, unlawful exploitation of a minor, distribution of child pornography, possession of child pornography, or distribution of indecent material to a minor.

The bill allows a designee of the attorney general, still within the Department of Law, to issue the administrative subpoenas. It corrects a problem with the service provisions of the law to allow service of the subpoenas in any manner authorized by law or acceptable to the Internet service provider. The bill clarifies that a person who does not obey a subpoena or ask the court to quash the subpoena may be guilty of contempt. The bill does not include a problematic provision of current law which requires either returning information to the Internet service provider or destroying it if a criminal prosecution is not undertaken. There are two problems with this: first, an Internet service provider does not need the documents returned because they already have the information. Second, it is not good public policy for documents in the possession of a public agency be destroyed. It is better policy that this information is kept as part of a confidential police investigation. The bill also provides that a person may not bring a civil action against an Internet service provider for complying with an administrative subpoena.

Section 14 provides that the crime of unlawful exploitation of a minor is not included in the crimes that require an automatic waiver from juvenile to adult court for a person who is 16 or 17 years of age and who is charged with commission of the offense.

Sections 15 and 16 include the applicability and effective date provisions.