

Representative Sarah Vance House District 6

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Sponsor Statement

HB 47 GENERATED OBSCENE CHILD SEX ABUSE MATERIAL

"An Act relating to crime and criminal procedure; relating to generated obscene child sexual abuse material; relating to the powers of district judges and magistrates; relating to teaching certificates; and relating to licensing of school bus drivers."

House Bill 47 aims to combat the creation, possession, and distribution of obscene Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) generated using synthetic media, including artificial intelligence (AI). Advances in digital technology have introduced a disturbing threat: the production of virtual sexual images of children that are indistinguishable from reality.

This issue came to light last summer when an Army soldier stationed at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage was arrested on charges of transporting, receiving, and possessing child sexual abuse material, including AI-generated images. Deputy Attorney General Lisa Monaco highlighted the severity of the situation, stating, "The misuse of cutting-edge generative AI is accelerating the proliferation of dangerous content, including child sexual abuse material — so the Department of Justice is accelerating its enforcement efforts. As alleged, the defendant used AI tools to morph images of real kids into horrific child sexual abuse material."

House Bill 47 directly addresses this emerging threat by expanding Alaska's criminal laws to include wholly generated obscene images of children. These images, although synthetic, are indistinguishable from real children and meet the criteria for obscenity under the *Miller* Test, thus falling outside the protections of the First Amendment.

By criminalizing the possession and distribution of synthetic obscene CSAM, this legislation seeks to:

- Protect vulnerable individuals from exploitation;
- Uphold justice for crimes that exploit the likeness of children, even in synthetic forms; and
- Maintain societal integrity by ensuring accountability for those who create and distribute such material.

House Bill 47 is a proactive step to adapt Alaska's legal framework to emerging technological threats, reinforcing the state's commitment to safeguarding its communities from exploitation and harm.