

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE  
HOUSE JUDICIARY STANDING COMMITTEE**

March 15, 2024

1:05 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Representative Sarah Vance, Chair  
Representative Jamie Allard, Vice Chair  
Representative Craig Johnson  
Representative Andrew Gray

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Representative Ben Carpenter  
Representative Jesse Sumner  
Representative Cliff Groh

**COMMITTEE CALENDAR**

HOUSE BILL NO. 358

"An Act relating to use of artificial intelligence to create or alter a representation of the voice or likeness of an individual."

- HEARD & HELD

HOUSE BILL NO. 254

"An Act relating to liability for publishing or distributing pornography to minors on the Internet."

- HEARD & HELD

**PREVIOUS COMMITTEE ACTION**

BILL: HB 358

SHORT TITLE: PROHIBIT AI-ALTERED REPRESENTATIONS

SPONSOR(S): REPRESENTATIVE(S) CRONK

02/20/24	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
02/20/24	(H)	JUD
03/13/24	(H)	JUD AT 1:00 PM GRUENBERG 120
03/13/24	(H)	Heard & Held
03/13/24	(H)	MINUTE(JUD)
03/15/24	(H)	JUD AT 1:00 PM GRUENBERG 120

BILL: HB 254

SHORT TITLE: PROHIBIT PORNOGRAPHY TO MINORS  
SPONSOR(s): REPRESENTATIVE(s) VANCE

01/16/24	(H)	PREFILE RELEASED 1/12/24
01/16/24	(H)	READ THE FIRST TIME - REFERRALS
01/16/24	(H)	L&C, JUD
01/31/24	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
01/31/24	(H)	Heard & Held
01/31/24	(H)	MINUTE(L&C)
03/06/24	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
03/06/24	(H)	Heard & Held
03/06/24	(H)	MINUTE(L&C)
03/11/24	(H)	L&C AT 3:15 PM BARNES 124
03/11/24	(H)	Moved HB 254 Out of Committee
03/11/24	(H)	MINUTE(L&C)
03/13/24	(H)	L&C RPT 1DP 1DNP 3NR 1AM
03/13/24	(H)	DP: SADDLER
03/13/24	(H)	DNP: CARRICK
03/13/24	(H)	NR: PRAX, WRIGHT, RUFFRIDGE
03/13/24	(H)	AM: FIELDS
03/13/24	(H)	JUD AT 1:00 PM GRUENBERG 120
03/13/24	(H)	Heard & Held
03/13/24	(H)	MINUTE(JUD)
03/15/24	(H)	JUD AT 1:00 PM GRUENBERG 120

#### **WITNESS REGISTER**

ERIC FALER, representing self  
Cleveland, Ohio

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of HB 254.

SAVANNAH SLY, representing self  
Burlington, Vermont

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in opposition to HB 254.

MANDY SALLEY, Chief Operating Officer  
Woodhull Freedom Foundation  
New York City, New York

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in opposition to HB 254.

TERRA BURNS, Advocate  
Community United for Safety and Protection  
Fairbanks, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in opposition to HB 254.

SHARON BYRNE, Executive Director  
Women's Liberation Front

New York City, New York

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in support of HB 254.

MAXINE DOOGAN, President  
Community United for Safety and Protection  
Fairbanks, Alaska

**POSITION STATEMENT:** Testified in opposition to HB 254.

**ACTION NARRATIVE**

[1:05:57 PM](#)

**CHAIR VANCE** called the House Judiciary Standing Committee meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Representatives C. Johnson, Gray, Allard, and Vance were present at the call to order.

**HB 358-PROHIBIT AI-ALTERED REPRESENTATIONS**

[1:06:45 PM](#)

CHAIR VANCE announced that the first order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 358, "An Act relating to use of artificial intelligence to create or alter a representation of the voice or likeness of an individual."

CHAIR VANCE opened public testimony on HB 358. After ascertaining that no one wished to testify, she closed public testimony.

[1:07:32 PM](#)

CHAIR VANCE announced that HB 358 would be held over.

**HB 254-PROHIBIT PORNOGRAPHY TO MINORS**

[1:07:51 PM](#)

CHAIR VANCE announced that the final order of business would be HOUSE BILL NO. 254, "An Act relating to liability for publishing or distributing pornography to minors on the Internet."

CHAIR VANCE opened public testimony on HB 254.

[1:08:32 PM](#)

ERIC FALER, representing self, testified in support of HB 254. He shared a personal anecdote and reported that 71 percent of

teenagers aged 13-17 come across pornography without looking for it, and children aged 11-13 are the most likely to say that it was unintentional. He reiterated his support for the bill.

1:10:00 PM

SAVANNAH SLY, representing self, testified in opposition to HB 254. She expressed concern about the privacy risk that the bill posed for Alaskans; in addition, she said it might be ineffective in preventing minors from accessing adult material. She expressed further concern that requiring Alaskans to upload their identification (ID) could create a highly sensitive, stigmatized data bank that would entice hackers. She believed that there are better ways to accomplish the goal of preventing minors from accessing adult material. She recommended more holistic prevention measures, such as the installation of adult controls and filters on devices used by minors.

1:11:54 PM

MANDY SALLEY, Chief Operating Officer, Woodhull Freedom Foundation, testified in opposition to HB 254. She said she agreed with the goal of keeping children from age-inappropriate material; however, similar bills in Utah, Texas, and Louisiana raise significant privacy risks for consumers and violate First Amendment protections. Not only are these bills unconstitutional and a danger to consumer privacy, but they are also ineffective at preventing minors from accessing adult content and easily evaded through the use of virtual private networks (VPN). She pointed out that compliance with HB 254 would require users to transmit sensitive data, such as digitized copies of their government issued ID, to age-verification software providers, which would open them up to the risk of data breaches. If passed, she said HB 254 would violate Article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

1:14:00 PM

TERRA BURNS, Advocate, Community United for Safety and Protection, testified in opposition to HB 254. As an adult content creator in Alaska, she believed that the bill would increase her income by preventing the free sharing of pornography online. Further, she opined that the definition of pornography in HB 254 would be too broad to enforce. She expressed concern that if the bill were to pass, she could be sued for the actions of someone stealing and distributing her content.

[1:16:41 PM](#)

SHARON BYRNE, Executive Director, Women's Liberation Front, testified in support of HB 254. She reported that Texas, Louisiana, and Utah withstood legal challenges by Pornhub on similar legislation. She described pornography as a form of economic violence against women and said too many young people are exposed to violent content at a young age. She opined that anything to limit the exploitative nature of pornography against women should be done.

[1:18:12 PM](#)

MAXINE DOOGAN, President, Community United for Safety and Protection, testified in opposition to HB 254. She stated that the civil litigations implemented by HB 254 would not match the problems presented by the bill sponsor. She shared her belief that parents who are exposing their children to adult content should learn how to use parental controls. Further, she opined that allowing content creators to be targeted in civil litigation would be inappropriate.

CHAIR VANCE closed public testimony on HB 254.

[1:19:49 PM](#)

[HB 254 was held over.]

[1:20:05 PM](#)

CHAIR VANCE clarified a misstatement made on the record during the confirmation hearing for Joyce Anderson to the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics [on 3/8/24]. She relayed that Ms. Anderson had never been registered as a democrat or a republican in any state. Ms. Anderson registered to vote when she moved to Alaska in 1999 as nonpartisan. Prior to moving to Alaska, Ms. Anderson lived in Minnesota, which did not require party affiliation to register to vote. As director of elections and voter registration for Minneapolis for 14 years, Ms. Anderson remained apolitical and nonpartisan. Chair Vance noted that this statement from Ms. Anderson did not constitute agreement or disagreement by any members, and that her confirmation would be taken up on the House floor.

[1:21:53 PM](#)

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the committee, the House Judiciary Standing Committee meeting was adjourned at 1:21 p.m.