HB168 ENGROSSED



- 1 HB168
- 2 LRVFAWW-2
- 3 By Representatives Woods, Stadthagen, Underwood, Shedd,
- 4 Crawford, Brinyark, Gidley, Lamb, Bolton, Starnes, Shaver,
- 5 DuBose, Shaw, Shirey, Givens, Holk-Jones, Fidler, Stubbs,
- 6 Colvin, Ingram, Carns, Bedsole, Treadaway, Estes, Stringer,
- 7 Hammett, Faulkner, Hulsey, Wilcox, Wood (R), Simpson, Moore
- 8 (P), Kiel, Rigsby, Butler, Harrison, Pettus, Sells, Hill,
- 9 Mooney, Fincher, Rehm, Standridge, Whorton, Wood (D)
- 10 RFD: Judiciary
- 11 First Read: 14-Feb-24



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6	A BILL
7	TO BE ENTITLED
8	AN ACT
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10	Relating to child sexual abuse material; to amend
11	Sections 13A-6-240, as last amended by Act 2023-464, 2023
12	Regular Session, 13A-12-190, 13A-12-191, 13A-12-192,
13	13A-12-193, 13A-12-194, 13A-12-196, 13A-12-197, and
14	13A-12-198, Code of Alabama 1975; to further provide for the
15	age of a child for offenses involving child sexual abuse
16	material; to provide for exceptions; to provide a cause of
17	action for certain offenses involving child sexual abuse
18	material; to provide for exceptions; to authorize a court to
19	award punitive damages against an individual who commits
20	certain offenses involving child sexual abuse material; to
21	direct the State Board of Education to require local school
22	boards to develop policies related to certain crimes; to
23	repeal Section 13A-12-195, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to
24	the commercial exploitation of child sexual abuse material; to
25	make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the
26	existing code language to current style; and in connection
27	therewith would have as its purpose or effect the requirement
28	of a new or increased expenditure of local funds within the



- 29 meaning of Section 111.05 of the Constitution of Alabama of
- 30 2022.
- 31 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:
- 32 Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as
- 33 the Alabama Child Protection Act of 2024.
- 34 Section 2. The Legislature finds and declares the
- 35 following:
- 36 (1) Child pornography harms and debases the most
- 37 defenseless of our residents.
- 38 (2) Child pornography is not entitled to protection
- 39 under the First Amendment.
- 40 (3) The State of Alabama has a compelling state
- interest in protecting children from those who sexually
- 42 exploit them, including both child molesters and child
- pornographers, and this interest extends to stamping out the
- 44 vice of child pornography, also referred to as child sexual
- 45 abuse material, at all levels in the distribution chain.
- 46 (4) The state thus has a compelling interest in
- 47 ensuring that the criminal prohibitions against child sexual
- 48 abuse material remain enforceable and effective.
- 49 (5) Artificially-generated child sexual abuse material
- is virtually indistinguishable from actual child sexual abuse
- 51 material.
- 52 (6) With artificial technology, perpetrators can now
- 53 computer-generate depictions of children that are
- indistinguishable from depictions of real children; use parts
- of images of real children to create a composite image that is
- 56 unidentifiable as a particular child and in a way that



- 57 prevents even an expert from concluding that parts of images
- of real children were used; and disguise pictures of real
- 59 children being abused by making the image look
- 60 computer-generated.
- (7) Child sexual abuse material results from the abuse
- of real children by sex offenders. The production of child
- 63 sexual abuse material is a byproduct of the sexual abuse of
- 64 children. There is no evidence that the development of
- 65 artificially-generated child sexual abuse material would stop
- or even reduce the sexual abuse of real children or the
- 67 practice of visually recording that abuse.
- 68 (8) Artificially-generated child sexual abuse material
- 69 re-victimizes actual child victims, as their images are
- 70 collected from the Internet and studied by artificial
- 71 intelligence tools to create new images.
- 72 (9) Artificially-generated child sexual abuse material
- 73 whets the appetites of child molesters who may use the images
- 74 to seduce children.
- 75 (10) The danger to children who are seduced and
- 76 molested with the aid of child sexual abuse material is just
- as great when the child molester or child pornographer uses
- 78 child sexual abuse material produced wholly or in part by
- 79 electronic, mechanical, or other means as when the material
- 80 consists of images of actual children engaged in sexually
- 81 explicit conduct.
- 82 (11) Artificially-generated child sexual abuse material
- 83 provides another means by which child pornographers can profit
- 84 from child sexual abuse.



85 (12) Because artificially-generated child sexual abuse 86 material can be swiftly generated in bulk, law enforcement 87 will often discover large amounts on seized devices, 88 complicating investigations and interfering with efforts to 89 identify and protect child victims and stop the dissemination 90 of the material.

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- (13) Many criminal defendants argue that the images of child sexual abuse material they possess are not those of actual children, insisting that the state prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the images are not artificially-generated.
- (14) In the absence of state legislative action, the difficulties the state has experienced in enforcing child pornography laws will continue to intensify and threaten to render unenforceable laws that protect actual children.
- (15) Imposing an additional requirement that the state prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant knew that the image was in fact an actual child, as some courts have done, threatens to result in the de facto legalization of the possession, receipt, and distribution of child sexual abuse material for all except the original producers of the material.
- 107 (16) To avoid this grave threat to the state's

 108 unquestioned compelling interest in effective enforcement of

 109 the sexual abuse laws that protect actual children, a statute

 110 must be adopted that prohibits a well-defined subcategory of

 111 images.
- 112 (17) For these reasons, actual and



- 113 artificially-generated child sexual abuse material, which are
- virtually indistinguishable, must now be considered legally
- indistinguishable and subject to the criminal penalties
- 116 provided in current law.
- 117 Section 3. Section 13A-6-240, as last amended by Act
- 118 2023-464, 2023 Regular Session, Sections 13A-12-190,
- 119 13A-12-191, 13A-12-192, 13A-12-193, 13A-12-194, 13A-12-196,
- 120 13A-12-197, and 13A-12-198, Code of Alabama 1975, are amended
- 121 to read as follows:
- 122 "\$13A-6-240
- 123 (a) A person commits the crime of distributing a
- 124 private image if he or she knowingly posts, emails, texts,
- 125 transmits, or otherwise distributes a private image when the
- 126 depicted person_individual has not consented to the
- 127 transmission and the depicted person_individual_had a
- 128 reasonable expectation of privacy against transmission of the
- 129 private image.
- (b) (1) For purposes of this section, "private image"
- means a photograph, digital image, video, film, or other
- 132 recording of a person an individual who is identifiable from
- 133 the recording itself or from the circumstances of its
- 134 transmission and who is engaged in any act of sadomasochistic
- 135 abuse, sexual intercourse, sexual excitement, masturbation,
- 136 breast nudity, as defined in Section 13A-12-190, genital
- 137 nudity, or other sexual conducts exually explicit conduct, as
- defined in Section 13A-12-190.
- 139 (2) The term includes a recording that has been edited,
- 140 altered, or otherwise manipulated from its original form.



- 141 (c)(1) For purposes of this section, a "reasonable expectation of privacy" includes, but is not limited to, either of the following circumstances:
- a. The person_individual_depicted in the private image

 created it or consented to its creation believing that it

 would remain confidential.
- b. The sexual conduct depicted in the image was involuntary.

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- 149 (2) There is no reasonable expectation of privacy
 150 against the transmission of a private image made voluntarily
 151 in a public or commercial setting.
 - (d) It is a defense to distributing a private image if the distribution of the private image was made in the public interest, including, but not limited to, the reporting of unlawful conduct; the lawful and common practices of law enforcement, legal proceedings, or medical treatment; or a bona fide attempt to prevent further distribution of the private image.
 - (e) For the purposes of determining jurisdiction, the crime of distributing a private image shall be considered to be committed in any county in which any part of the crime took place, in the county of residence of the victim or defendant, or any county where the image is received.
- 164 (f) A violation of this section is a Class A

 165 misdemeanor. A subsequent adjudication or conviction under

 166 this section is a Class C felony.
- 167 (g) No Internet service provider, search engine, cloud

 168 service provider, or affiliate or subsidiary of any of the

169	same, shall be held to have violated this section soley for
170	providing access or connection to or from a website, other
171	information or content on the Internet, or a facility, system,
172	or network not under the control of the provider, including,
173	but not limited to, the transmission, download, or
174	intermediate storage of content that is child sexual abuse
175	<pre>material."</pre>
176	"\$13A-12-190
177	For the purposes of this division, the following terms
178	shall—have the <u>following</u> meanings—respectively ascribed to
179	them by this section:
180	$\frac{(1)}{(4)}$ DISSEMINATE. To transmit, distribute, sell,
181	lend, provide, transfer, or show, including through electronic
182	means.
183	$\frac{(2)}{(3)}$ DISPLAY PUBLICLY. The exposing, placing,
184	posting, exhibiting, or in any fashion displaying in any
185	location, whether public or private, an item in such a manner
186	that it may be readily seen and its content or character
187	distinguished by normal unaided vision viewing it from a
188	public thoroughfare, depot, or vehicle.
189	$\frac{(3)}{(9)}$ PUBLIC THOROUGHFARE, DEPOT, OR VEHICLE. Any
190	street, highway, park, depot, or transportation platform or
191	other place, whether indoors or outoutdoors, or any vehicle
192	for public transportation, owned or operated by government,
193	either directly or through a public corporation or authority,
194	or owned or operated by any agency of public transportation
195	that is designed for the use, enjoyment, or transportation of
196	the general public.



- 197 (4) (6) KNOWINGLY. A person knowingly disseminates or

 198 publicly displays obscene matter acts when the person knows

 199 the nature of the matterchild sexual abuse material. A person

 200 knows the nature of the matter material when either of the

 201 following circumstances exist:
 - a. The person is aware of the character and content of the mattermaterial.
- 204 b. The person recklessly disregards circumstances
 205 suggesting the character and content of the mattermattermaterial.

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- (5) (10) SADO-MASOCHISTIC SADOMASOCHISTIC ABUSE. Such term means either Either of the following:
- a. Flagellation or torture, for the purpose of sexual stimulation, by or upon a person an individual who is nude or clad in undergarments or in a revealing or bizarre costume.
- b. The condition of a person an individual who is nude or clad in undergarments or in a revealing or bizarre costume being fettered, bound, or otherwise physically restrained for the purpose of sexual stimulation.
- 215 $\frac{(6)}{(12)}$ SEXUAL EXCITEMENT. The condition of human male 216 or female genitals when in a state of sexual stimulation.
- 217 (7) (13) SEXUAL INTERCOURSE. Intercourse, real or
 218 simulated, whether genital-genital, oral-genital,
 219 anal-genital, or oral-anal, whether between persons
 220 individuals of the same or opposite sex or between a human and
 221 an animal.
- 222 (8) (7) MASTURBATION. Manipulation, by hand or
 223 instrument, of the human genitals, whether one's own or
 224 another's for the purpose of sexual stimulation.



225	$\frac{(9)}{(8)}$ OTHER SEXUAL CONDUCT. Any touching of the
226	genitals, pubic areas, or buttocks of the human male or
227	female, or the breasts of the female, whether alone or between
228	members of the same or opposite sex or between humans and
229	animals in an act of apparent sexual stimulation or
230	gratification.
231	$\frac{(10)}{(1)}$ BREAST NUDITY. The lewd showing of the
232	post-pubertal human female breasts below a point immediately
233	above the top of the areola.
234	$\frac{(11)}{(5)}$ GENITAL NUDITY. The lewd showing of the
235	genitals or pubic area.
236	(12) MATTER. Any book, magazine, newspaper, or other
237	printed material, or any picture, photograph, motion picture,
238	video cassette, tape, record, digital video disc (DVD), video
239	compilation, or electronic depiction in a comparable format,
240	or an image, file, download, or other content stored, or
241	reproduced by using a computer or electronic device or other
242	digital storage, or any other thing, articles, or materials
243	that either are or contain a photographic or other visual
244	depiction of a live act, performance, or event.
245	(13) OBSCENE. a. When used to describe any matter that
246	contains a visual reproduction of breast nudity, the term
247	shall include all of the following:
248	1. Applying contemporary local community standards, on
249	the whole, appeals to the prurient interest.
250	2. Is patently offensive.
251	3. On the whole, lacks serious literary, artistic,
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253	b. When used to describe matter that is a depiction of
254	an act of sado-masochistic abuse, sexual intercourse, sexual
255	excitement, masturbation, genital nudity, or other sexual
256	conduct, the term means matter containing a visual
257	reproduction that itself lacks serious literary, artistic,
258	political, or scientific value.
259	(14) LOCAL COMMUNITY. The judicial circuit in which the
260	indictment is brought.
261	(15) VISUAL DEPICTION. A portrayal, representation,
262	illustration, image, likeness, or other thing that creates a
263	sensory impression, whether an original, duplicate, or
264	reproduction.
265	$\frac{(16)}{(11)}$ SEPARATE OFFENSE. The depiction of an
266	individual less than $\frac{17}{18}$ years of age that violates this
267	division shall constitute a separate offense for each single
268	visual depiction.
269	(2) CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE MATERIAL. Any visual depiction
270	of an individual under 18 years of age engaged in any act of
271	sexually explicit conduct, including a virtually
272	indistinguishable depiction.
273	(14) SEXUALLY EXPLICIT CONDUCT. Actual or simulated
274	conduct that includes sadomasochistic abuse, sexual
275	excitement, sexual intercourse, masturbation, breast nudity,
276	genital nudity, or other sexual conduct.
277	(15) VIRTUALLY INDISTINGUISHABLE DEPICTION. A visual
278	depiction created, altered, or produced by digital, computer
279	generated, or other means that a reasonable person would
280	conclude is of an actual individual under 18 years of age



281 <u>engaged in sexually explicit conduct.</u>"

282 "\$13A-12-191

- (a) Any person who shall knowingly disseminate or display publicly any obscene matter containing a visual depiction of a person under the age of 17 years engaged in any act of sado-masochistic abuse, sexual intercourse, sexual excitement, masturbation, breast nudity, genital nudity, or other sexual conduct child sexual abuse material shall be guilty of a Class B felony.
- (b) Any person who shall knowingly advertise, promote, present, distribute, or solicit by any means, including by computer, any material or purported material in a manner that reflects the belief, or that is intended to cause another to believe, that the material or purported material is a visual depiction of an actual individual under 18 years of age engaging in sexually explicit conduct shall be guilty of a Class B felony."

298 "\$13A-12-192

(a) Any person who knowingly possesses with intent to disseminate any obscene matter that contains a visual depiction of a person under the age of 17 years engaged in any act of sado-masochistic abuse, sexual intercourse, sexual excitement, masturbation, breast nudity, genital nudity, or other sexual conduct child sexual abuse material shall be guilty of a Class B felony. Any transfer of the visual depiction child sexual abuse material from any electronic device to any other device, program, application, or any other place with storage capability which that can be made available



or is accessible by other users, is prima facie evidence of possession with intent to disseminate.

(b) Any person who knowingly possesses any obscence matter that contains a visual depiction of a person under the age of 17 years engaged in any act of sado-masochistic abuse, sexual intercourse, sexual excitement, masturbation, breast nudity, genital nudity, or other sexual conduct child sexual abuse material shall be guilty of a Class C felony."

"\$13A-12-193

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- (a) In proving that a person an individual in a visual depiction who is engaged in any obscene act set out in Sections 13A-12-191, 13A-12-192, 13A-12-196 and 13A-12-197 sexually explicit conduct is under the age of 17-18 years of age, the state is not required to introduce into evidence a birth certificate, produce testimony as to the date of birth of such personthe individual, or produce testimony of any person who knows or is acquainted with the person individual alleged to be under the age of 17-18 years of age. If the defendant or the state intends to rely on a birth certificate to prove the date of birth of any person in the visually reproduced matterindividual, such the defendant or the state shall file with the clerk of the court in which the action is pending, at least 15 days prior to trial, a notice of an intention to rely on an official, certified copy of a birth certificate together with a copy of the birth certificate.
- (b) A jury, or the court if a jury trial is waived, The factfinder may infer from the following factors whether or not the person individual displayed or depicted in any obscene



337	<u>matter_visual_depiction_is_under_the_age_of_17_18_years_of_</u>
338	age:
339	(1) The general body growth and bone structure of the
340	<pre>person; individual.</pre>
341	(2) The development of pubic hair or body hair on the
342	<pre>person; individual.</pre>
343	(3) The development of the <pre>person's individual's</pre> sexual
344	organs÷.
345	(4) The context in which the <pre>person_individual_is</pre>
346	placed by any accompanying printed or text material \div .
347	(5) Any expert testimony as to the degree of maturity
348	of the <pre>person</pre> individual.
349	(c) The existence of any or all of the factors listed
350	in subsection (b) of this section (a) shall not operate to
351	change the requirement that before any conviction may be had,
352	the state must convince the factfinder beyond a reasonable
353	doubt that the <pre>person_individual_engaged in the act of</pre>
354	<pre>sado-masochistic abuse, sexual intercourse, sexual excitement,</pre>
355	masturbation, breast nudity, genital nudity, or other sexual
356	<pre>conduct in the visual depiction sexually explicit conduct is</pre>
357	or is virtually indistinguishable from an individual under the
358	age of 17 18 years of age.
359	(d) It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under
360	this division if the actual individual purported to be under
361	18 years of age and engaged in sexually explicit conduct was
362	an actual individual 18 years of age or older at the time of
363	the offense."
364	"§13A-12-194



365	The state shall not be required to establish the $\underline{\text{actual}}$
366	<pre>existence or identity, either in the indictment or in any</pre>
367	subsequent proceeding, of the <pre>person_individual</pre> alleged to be
368	under the age of 17 18 years of age who is engaged in any of
369	the acts described in Sections 13A-12-191, 13A-12-192,
370	13A-12-196 and 13A-12-197, which are visual depictionact of
371	sexually explicit conduct."
372	"\$13A-12-196
373	Any parent or guardian responsible person, as defined in
374	Section 26-15-2, who knowingly permits or allows their child,
375	ward, or dependent under the age of 17 18 years of age to
376	engage in the production of any obscene matter child sexual
377	<u>abuse material</u> containing a visual depiction of <u>such</u> the
378	child, ward, or dependent under the age of 17 years engaged in
379	any act of sado-masochistic abuse, sexual excitement,
380	masturbation, breast nudity, genital nudity, or other sexual
381	<pre>conduct shall be guilty of a Class A felony."</pre>
382	"§13A-12-197
383	(a) Any person who knowingly films, prints, records,
384	photographs, or otherwise produces any obscene matter that
385	contains a visual depiction of a person under the age of 17
386	years engaged in any act of sado-masochistic abuse, sexual
387	intercourse, sexual excitement, masturbation, breast nudity,
388	genital nudity, or other sexual conduct child sexual abuse
389	<pre>material shall be guilty of a Class A felony.</pre>
390	(b) For any person who violates this section, each
391	depiction of each individual less than 17 years of age
392	constitutes a separate offense."



393 "\$13A-12-198

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394 Any article, equipment, machine, materials, matter, 395 vehicle, or other thing whatsoever used in the commercial 396 production, transportation, dissemination, display, or storage 397 of any obscene matter displaying or depicting a person under the age of 17 years engaged in any of the obscene acts 398 described in Sections 13A-12-191, 13A-12-192, 13A-12-196 and 399 400 13A-12-197 child sexual abuse material shall be contraband and 401 shall be forfeited to the State of Alabama. The manner, method, and procedure for the forfeiture and condemnation of 402 403 such the thing shall be the same as that provided by law for the confiscation-or, condemnation, or forfeiture of 404 405 automobiles, conveyances, or vehicles in which alcoholic 406 beverages are illegally transported." 407 Section 4. (a) For the purposes of Division 4 of

Section 4. (a) For the purposes of Division 4 of Article 4 of Chapter 12 of Title 13A, Code of Alabama 1975, each depiction of child sexual abuse material that violates any section constitutes a separate offense.

(b) No Internet service provider, search engine, cloud service provider, or affiliate or subsidiary of any of the same, shall be held to have violated this division solely for providing access or connection to or from a website, other information or content on the Internet, or a facility, system, or network not under the control of the provider, including, but not limited to, the transmission, download, or intermediate storage of content that is child sexual abuse material.

Section 5. (a) An individual who commits any of the



- 421 following crimes is civilly liable to the individual depicted
- 422 in the relevant image:
- 423 (1) Distributing a private image, pursuant to Section
- 424 13A-6-240, Code of Alabama 1975.
- 425 (2) Dissemination, distribution, or public display of
- 426 child sexual abuse material, pursuant to Section 13A-12-191,
- 427 Code of Alabama 1975.
- 428 (3) Possession of child sexual abuse material, pursuant
- 429 to Section 13A-12-192, Code of Alabama 1975.
- 430 (4) Possession with intent to distribute child sexual
- 431 abuse material, pursuant to Section 13A-12-192, Code of
- 432 Alabama 1975.
- 433 (5) Permitting or allowing a child, ward, or dependent
- 434 to engage in production of child sexual abuse material as a
- parent or guardian, pursuant to Section 13A-12-196, Code of
- 436 Alabama 1975.
- 437 (6) Production of child sexual abuse material, pursuant
- 438 to Section 13A-12-197, Code of Alabama 1975.
- 439 (7) Advertising, promoting, presenting, or soliciting
- 440 child sexual abuse material, pursuant to Section 13A-12-191,
- 441 Code of Alabama 1975.
- (b) No civil action may be brought pursuant to this
- 443 section for actions taken to prevent, detect, protect against,
- 444 report, or respond to the production, generation,
- 445 incorporation, or synthesization through artificial
- 446 intelligence of child sexual abuse material.
- 447 Section 6. Civil liability pursuant to Section 5 shall
- 448 consist of all of the following:



- 449 (1) The full actual damages incurred.
- 450 (2) Court costs and reasonable attorney fees.
- 451 (3) Punitive damages, if the plaintiff proves by clear
- 452 and convincing evidence that the defendant consciously or
- 453 deliberately engaged in wantonness or malice with regard to
- 454 the plaintiff, as defined in Section 6-11-20, Code of Alabama
- 455 1975.
- 456 Section 7. The State Board of Education shall require
- 457 each local board of education to do all of the following
- 458 before the start of the 2024-2025 school year:
- 459 (1) Develop a written policy on student discipline and
- 460 education related to the distribution of private images as
- defined in Section 13A-6-240, Code of Alabama 1975, and the
- 462 distribution, dissemination, public display, advertising,
- promoting, presenting, soliciting, possession, possession with
- 464 intent to distribute, and production of child sexual abuse
- 465 material as defined in Division 4 of Article 4 of Chapter 12
- of Title 13A, Code of Alabama 1975.
- 467 (2) Include within the written policy a prohibition of
- 468 private, explicit, or pornographic images generated with
- 469 artificial intelligence.
- 470 (3) Broadly disseminate the policy following its
- 471 adoption.
- 472 (4) Distribute copies of the policy to all teachers,
- 473 staff, parents, and students.
- 474 Section 8. Section 13A-12-195, Code of Alabama 1975,
- 475 relating to the commercial exploitation of obscene material,
- 476 is repealed.



477	Section 9. Although this bill would have as its purpose
478	or effect the requirement of a new or increased expenditure of
479	local funds, the bill is excluded from further requirements
480	and application under Section 111.05 of the Constitution of
481	Alabama of 2022, because the bill defines a new crime or
482	amends the definition of an existing crime.
483	Section 10. This act shall become effective on October
484	1, 2024.



485 486 487	House of Representatives
488 489 490 491	Read for the first time and referred
492 493 494	Read for the second time and placed
495 496	Read for the third time and passed22-Feb-24
497	as amended
498	Yeas 101
499	Nays 0
500	Abstains 0
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503	John Treadwell
504	Clerk
505	