HB168 ENROLLED



- 1 HB168
- 2 LRVFAWW-3
- 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



1 Enrolled, An Act, 2 3 4 5 Relating to child sexual abuse material; to amend 6 Sections 13A-6-240, as last amended by Act 2023-464, 2023 Regular Session, 13A-12-190, 13A-12-191, 13A-12-192, 7 8 13A-12-193, 13A-12-194, 13A-12-196, 13A-12-197, and 9 13A-12-198, Code of Alabama 1975; to further provide for the age of a child for offenses involving child sexual abuse 10 11 material; to provide for exceptions; to provide a cause of 12 action for certain offenses involving child sexual abuse 13 material; to provide for exceptions; to authorize a court to 14 award punitive damages against an individual who commits 15 certain offenses involving child sexual abuse material; to 16 direct the State Board of Education to require local school 17 boards to develop policies related to certain crimes; to 18 repeal Section 13A-12-195, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to 19 the commercial exploitation of child sexual abuse material; to 20 make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the 21 existing code language to current style; and in connection 22 therewith would have as its purpose or effect the requirement 23 of a new or increased expenditure of local funds within the meaning of Section 111.05 of the Constitution of Alabama of 24 25 2022.

26 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the Alabama Child Protection Act of 2024.



- 29 Section 2. The Legislature finds and declares the 30 following:
- 31 (1) Child pornography harms and debases the most defenseless of our residents.

35

36

37

38

39

40

55

56

- 33 (2) Child pornography is not entitled to protection 34 under the First Amendment.
 - interest in protecting children from those who sexually exploit them, including both child molesters and child pornographers, and this interest extends to stamping out the vice of child pornography, also referred to as child sexual abuse material, at all levels in the distribution chain.
- 41 (4) The state thus has a compelling interest in 42 ensuring that the criminal prohibitions against child sexual 43 abuse material remain enforceable and effective.
- 44 (5) Artificially-generated child sexual abuse material 45 is virtually indistinguishable from actual child sexual abuse 46 material.
- 47 (6) With artificial technology, perpetrators can now 48 computer-generate depictions of children that are 49 indistinguishable from depictions of real children; use parts 50 of images of real children to create a composite image that is 51 unidentifiable as a particular child and in a way that 52 prevents even an expert from concluding that parts of images 53 of real children were used; and disguise pictures of real 54 children being abused by making the image look
 - (7) Child sexual abuse material results from the abuse

computer-generated.



- of real children by sex offenders. The production of child
- 58 sexual abuse material is a byproduct of the sexual abuse of
- 59 children. There is no evidence that the development of
- 60 artificially-generated child sexual abuse material would stop
- or even reduce the sexual abuse of real children or the
- 62 practice of visually recording that abuse.
- (8) Artificially-generated child sexual abuse material
- 64 re-victimizes actual child victims, as their images are
- 65 collected from the Internet and studied by artificial
- 66 intelligence tools to create new images.
- 67 (9) Artificially-generated child sexual abuse material
- 68 whets the appetites of child molesters who may use the images
- 69 to seduce children.
- 70 (10) The danger to children who are seduced and
- 71 molested with the aid of child sexual abuse material is just
- as great when the child molester or child pornographer uses
- 73 child sexual abuse material produced wholly or in part by
- 74 electronic, mechanical, or other means as when the material
- 75 consists of images of actual children engaged in sexually
- 76 explicit conduct.
- 77 (11) Artificially-generated child sexual abuse material
- 78 provides another means by which child pornographers can profit
- 79 from child sexual abuse.
- 80 (12) Because artificially-generated child sexual abuse
- 81 material can be swiftly generated in bulk, law enforcement
- 82 will often discover large amounts on seized devices,
- 83 complicating investigations and interfering with efforts to
- 84 identify and protect child victims and stop the dissemination



- 85 of the material.
- 86 (13) Many criminal defendants argue that the images of
- 87 child sexual abuse material they possess are not those of
- 88 actual children, insisting that the state prove beyond a
- 89 reasonable doubt that the images are not
- 90 artificially-generated.
- 91 (14) In the absence of state legislative action, the
- 92 difficulties the state has experienced in enforcing child
- 93 pornography laws will continue to intensify and threaten to
- 94 render unenforceable laws that protect actual children.
- 95 (15) Imposing an additional requirement that the state
- 96 prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant knew that
- 97 the image was in fact an actual child, as some courts have
- 98 done, threatens to result in the de facto legalization of the
- 99 possession, receipt, and distribution of child sexual abuse
- 100 material for all except the original producers of the
- 101 material.
- 102 (16) To avoid this grave threat to the state's
- 103 unquestioned compelling interest in effective enforcement of
- 104 the sexual abuse laws that protect actual children, a statute
- 105 must be adopted that prohibits a well-defined subcategory of
- 106 images.
- 107 (17) For these reasons, actual and
- 108 artificially-generated child sexual abuse material, which are
- 109 virtually indistinguishable, must now be considered legally
- indistinguishable and subject to the criminal penalties
- 111 provided in current law.
- Section 3. Section 13A-6-240, as last amended by Act



- 113 2023-464, 2023 Regular Session, Sections 13A-12-190,
- 114 13A-12-191, 13A-12-192, 13A-12-193, 13A-12-194, 13A-12-196,
- 115 13A-12-197, and 13A-12-198, Code of Alabama 1975, are amended
- 116 to read as follows:
- 117 "\$13A-6-240
- 118 (a) A person commits the crime of distributing a
- 119 private image if he or she knowingly posts, emails, texts,
- 120 transmits, or otherwise distributes a private image when the
- 121 depicted person individual has not consented to the
- 122 transmission and the depicted person-individual had a
- 123 reasonable expectation of privacy against transmission of the
- 124 private image.
- (b) (1) For purposes of this section, "private image"
- 126 means a photograph, digital image, video, film, or other
- 127 recording of a person an individual who is identifiable from
- 128 the recording itself or from the circumstances of its
- 129 transmission and who is engaged in any act of sadomasochistic
- 130 abuse, sexual intercourse, sexual excitement, masturbation,
- 131 breast nudity, as defined in Section 13A-12-190, genital
- 132 nudity, or other sexual conducts exually explicit conduct, as
- defined in Section 13A-12-190.
- 134 (2) The term includes a recording that has been edited,
- altered, or otherwise manipulated from its original form.
- (c) (1) For purposes of this section, a "reasonable
- 137 expectation of privacy" includes, but is not limited to,
- 138 either of the following circumstances:
- a. The person individual depicted in the private image
- 140 created it or consented to its creation believing that it



- 141 would remain confidential.
- b. The sexual conduct depicted in the image was
- involuntary.
- 144 (2) There is no reasonable expectation of privacy
- against the transmission of a private image made voluntarily
- in a public or commercial setting.
- 147 (d) It is a defense to distributing a private image if
- 148 the distribution of the private image was made in the public
- 149 interest, including, but not limited to, the reporting of
- 150 unlawful conduct; the lawful and common practices of law
- 151 enforcement, legal proceedings, or medical treatment; or a
- bona fide attempt to prevent further distribution of the
- 153 private image.
- 154 (e) For the purposes of determining jurisdiction, the
- 155 crime of distributing a private image shall be considered to
- 156 be committed in any county in which any part of the crime took
- 157 place, in the county of residence of the victim or defendant,
- or any county where the image is received.
- 159 (f) A violation of this section is a Class A
- 160 misdemeanor. A subsequent adjudication or conviction under
- 161 this section is a Class C felony.
- 162 (g) 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 section soley for
- 165 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,
- 168 but not limited to, the transmission, download, or



- intermediate storage of content that is child sexual abuse
 material."
- 171 "\$13A-12-190

184

185

186

187

188

189

190

- For the purposes of this division, the following terms

 shall have the following meanings respectively ascribed to

 them by this section:
- 175 (1) (4) DISSEMINATE. To transmit, distribute, sell,
 176 lend, provide, transfer, or show, including through electronic
 177 means.
- 178 (2)(3) DISPLAY PUBLICLY. The exposing, placing,
 179 posting, exhibiting, or in any fashion displaying in any
 180 location, whether public or private, an item in such—a manner
 181 that it may be readily seen and its content or character
 182 distinguished by normal unaided vision viewing it from a
 183 public thoroughfare, depot, or vehicle.
 - (3) (9) PUBLIC THOROUGHFARE, DEPOT, OR VEHICLE. Any street, highway, park, depot, or transportation platform or other place, whether indoors or outoutdoors, or any vehicle for public transportation, owned or operated by government, either directly or through a public corporation or authority, or owned or operated by any agency of public transportation that is designed for the use, enjoyment, or transportation of the general public.
- 192 (4) (6) KNOWINGLY. A person knowingly disseminates or
 193 publicly displays obscene matter acts when the person knows
 194 the nature of the matterchild sexual abuse material. A person
 195 knows the nature of the matter material when either of the
 196 following circumstances exist:



- 197 a. The person is aware of the character and content of the mattermaterial.
- b. The person recklessly disregards circumstancessuggesting the character and content of the mattermaterial.
- 201 (5) (10) SADO-MASOCHISTIC SADOMASOCHISTIC ABUSE. Such
 202 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.
- 206 b. The condition of a person an individual who is nude 207 or clad in undergarments or in a revealing or bizarre costume 208 being fettered, bound, or otherwise physically restrained for 209 the purpose of sexual stimulation.
- 210 $\frac{(6)}{(12)}$ SEXUAL EXCITEMENT. The condition of human male 211 or female genitals when in a state of sexual stimulation.
- 212 (7) (13) SEXUAL INTERCOURSE. Intercourse, real or
 213 simulated, whether genital-genital, oral-genital,
 214 anal-genital, or oral-anal, whether between persons
 215 individuals of the same or opposite sex or between a human and
- 217 (8) (7) MASTURBATION. Manipulation, by hand or
 218 instrument, of the human genitals, whether one's own or
 219 another's for the purpose of sexual stimulation.

216

an animal.

220 (9) (8) OTHER SEXUAL CONDUCT. Any touching of the
221 genitals, pubic areas, or buttocks of the human male or
222 female, or the breasts of the female, whether alone or between
223 members of the same or opposite sex or between humans and
224 animals in an act of apparent sexual stimulation or



225	gratification.
226	$\frac{(10)}{(1)}$ BREAST NUDITY. The lewd showing of the
227	post-pubertal human female breasts below a point immediately

228 above the top of the areola.

231

232

233

234

235

236

237

238

239

240

241

242

243

244

245

246

247

248

249

250

251

252

229 (11)(5) GENITAL NUDITY. The lewd showing of the 230 genitals or pubic area.

(12) MATTER. Any book, magazine, newspaper, or other printed material, or any picture, photograph, motion picture, video cassette, tape, record, digital video disc (DVD), video compilation, or electronic depiction in a comparable format, or an image, file, download, or other content stored, or reproduced by using a computer or electronic device or other digital storage, or any other thing, articles, or materials that either are or contain a photographic or other visual depiction of a live act, performance, or event.

(13) OBSCENE. a. When used to describe any matter that contains a visual reproduction of breast nudity, the term shall include all of the following:

1. Applying contemporary local community standards, the whole, appeals to the prurient interest.

2. Is patently offensive.

3. On the whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.

b. When used to describe matter that is a depiction of an act of sado-masochistic abuse, sexual intercourse, sexual excitement, masturbation, genital nudity, or other sexual conduct, the term means matter containing a visual reproduction that itself lacks serious literary, artistic,



253	political, or scientific value.
254	(14) LOCAL COMMUNITY. The judicial circuit in which the
255	indictment is brought.
256	(15) VISUAL DEPICTION. A portrayal, representation,
257	illustration, image, likeness, or other thing that creates a
258	sensory impression, whether an original, duplicate, or
259	reproduction.
260	$\frac{(16)}{(11)}$ SEPARATE OFFENSE. The depiction of an
261	individual less than $\frac{17}{18}$ years of age that violates this
262	division shall constitute a separate offense for each single
263	visual depiction.
264	(2) CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE MATERIAL. Any visual depiction
265	of an individual under 18 years of age engaged in any act of
266	sexually explicit conduct, including a virtually
267	indistinguishable depiction.
268	(14) SEXUALLY EXPLICIT CONDUCT. Actual or simulated
269	conduct that includes sadomasochistic abuse, sexual
270	excitement, sexual intercourse, masturbation, breast nudity,
271	genital nudity, or other sexual conduct.
272	(15) VIRTUALLY INDISTINGUISHABLE DEPICTION. A visual
273	depiction created, altered, or produced by digital, computer
274	generated, or other means that a reasonable person would
275	conclude is of an actual individual under 18 years of age
276	<pre>engaged in sexually explicit conduct."</pre>
277	"\$13A-12-191
278	(a) Any person who shall knowingly disseminate or
279	display publicly any obscene matter containing a visual

280 depiction of a person under the age of 17 years engaged in any





281 act of sado-masochistic abuse, sexual intercourse, sexual

282 excitement, masturbation, breast nudity, genital nudity, or

283 other sexual conduct child sexual abuse material shall be

284 quilty 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."
- 293 "\$13A-12-192

285

286

287

288

289

290

291

292

306

307

- (a) Any person who knowingly possesses with intent to 294 295 disseminate any obscene matter that contains a visual depiction of a person under the age of 17 years engaged in any 296 297 act of sado-masochistic abuse, sexual intercourse, sexual 298 excitement, masturbation, breast nudity, genital nudity, or 299 other sexual conduct child sexual abuse material shall be 300 quilty of a Class B felony. Any transfer of the visual 301 depiction child sexual abuse material from any electronic 302 device to any other device, program, application, or any other 303 place with storage capability which that can be made available 304 or is accessible by other users, is prima facie evidence of 305 possession with intent to disseminate.
 - (b) Any person who knowingly possesses 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,



309 sexual intercourse, sexual excitement, masturbation, breast
310 nudity, genital nudity, or other sexual conduct child sexual
311 abuse material shall be guilty of a Class C felony."

312 "\$13A-12-193

313

314

315

316

317

318

319

320

321

322

323

324

325

326

327

328

329

330

331

332

333

- (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 matter_visual_depiction_is under the age of 17_18_years_of age:
- 334 (1) The general body growth and bone structure of the 335 person; individual.
 - (2) The development of pubic hair or body hair on the

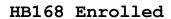


3 3 7	norcon · Individual	
337	person; individual	

- 338 (3) The development of the person's individual's sexual organs.
- 340 (4) The context in which the <u>person_individual_is</u>
 341 placed by any accompanying printed or text material.
- 342 (5) Any expert testimony as to the degree of maturity of the personindividual.
 - (c) The existence of any or all of the factors listed in subsection (b) of this section (a) shall not operate to change the requirement that before any conviction may be had, the state must convince the factfinder beyond a reasonable doubt that the person—individual engaged in the act of sado-masochistic abuse, sexual intercourse, sexual excitement, masturbation, breast nudity, genital nudity, or other sexual conduct in the visual depiction—sexually explicit conduct is or is virtually indistinguishable from an individual under the age of 17—18 years of age.
 - (d) It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under this division if the actual individual purported to be under 18 years of age and engaged in sexually explicit conduct was an actual individual 18 years of age or older at the time of the offense."

359 "\$13A-12-194

The state shall not be required to establish the <u>actual</u> existence or identity, either in the indictment or in any subsequent proceeding, of the <u>person</u> individual alleged to be under the age of 17—18 years of age who is engaged in any of the acts described in Sections 13A-12-191, 13A-12-192,





365	13A-12-196 and 13A-12-197, which are visual depictionact of
366	sexually explicit conduct."
367	"\$13A-12-196
368	Any parent or guardian responsible person, as defined in
369	Section 26-15-2, who knowingly permits or allows their child,
370	ward, or dependent under the age of 17 18 years of age to
371	engage in the production of any obscene matter child sexual
372	abuse material containing a visual depiction of such the
373	child, ward, or dependent under the age of 17 years engaged in
374	any act of sado-masochistic abuse, sexual excitement,
375	masturbation, breast nudity, genital nudity, or other sexual
376	<pre>conduct—shall be guilty of a Class A felony."</pre>
377	"\$13A-12-197
378	(a) Any person who knowingly films, prints, records,
379	photographs, or otherwise produces any obscene matter that
380	contains a visual depiction of a person under the age of 17
381	years engaged in any act of sado-masochistic abuse, sexual
382	intercourse, sexual excitement, masturbation, breast nudity,
383	genital nudity, or other sexual conduct child sexual abuse
384	material shall be guilty of a Class A felony.
385	(b) For any person who violates this section, each
386	depiction of each individual less than 17 years of age
387	constitutes a separate offense."
388	"\$13A-12-198
389	Any article, equipment, machine, materials, matter,
390	vehicle, or other thing $\frac{\text{whatsoever}}{\text{used}}$ in the commercial
391	production, transportation, dissemination, display, or storage
392	of any obscene matter displaying or depicting a person under



393	the age of 17 years engaged in any of the obscene acts
394	described in Sections 13A-12-191, 13A-12-192, 13A-12-196 and
395	13A-12-197 child sexual abuse material shall be contraband and
396	shall be forfeited to the State of Alabama. The manner,
397	method, and procedure for the forfeiture and condemnation of
398	such the thing shall be the same as that provided by law for
399	the confiscation— $\frac{\partial r_{\underline{\prime}}}{\partial r}$ condemnation, or forfeiture of
400	automobiles, conveyances $_{\underline{\prime}}$ or vehicles in which alcoholic
401	beverages are illegally transported."

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.

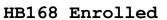
- (b) No Internet service provider, search engine, cloud service provider, or affiliate or subsidiary of any of the same, shall be held to have violated this division solely for providing access or connection to or from a website, other information or content on the Internet, or a facility, system, or 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 following crimes is civilly liable to the individual depicted in the relevant image:
- 418 (1) Distributing a private image, pursuant to Section 419 13A-6-240, Code of Alabama 1975.
 - (2) Dissemination, distribution, or public display of



- 421 child sexual abuse material, pursuant to Section 13A-12-191,
- 422 Code of Alabama 1975.
- 423 (3) Possession of child sexual abuse material, pursuant
- 424 to Section 13A-12-192, Code of Alabama 1975.
- 425 (4) Possession with intent to distribute child sexual
- 426 abuse material, pursuant to Section 13A-12-192, Code of
- 427 Alabama 1975.
- 428 (5) Permitting or allowing a child, ward, or dependent
- 429 to engage in production of child sexual abuse material as a
- 430 parent or guardian, pursuant to Section 13A-12-196, Code of
- 431 Alabama 1975.
- 432 (6) Production of child sexual abuse material, pursuant
- 433 to Section 13A-12-197, Code of Alabama 1975.
- 434 (7) Advertising, promoting, presenting, or soliciting
- 435 child sexual abuse material, pursuant to Section 13A-12-191,
- 436 Code of Alabama 1975.
- (b) No civil action may be brought pursuant to this
- 438 section for actions taken to prevent, detect, protect against,
- 439 report, or respond to the production, generation,
- 440 incorporation, or synthesization through artificial
- 441 intelligence of child sexual abuse material.
- 442 Section 6. Civil liability pursuant to Section 5 shall
- 443 consist of all of the following:
- 444 (1) The full actual damages incurred.
- 445 (2) Court costs and reasonable attorney fees.
- 446 (3) Punitive damages, if the plaintiff proves by clear
- 447 and convincing evidence that the defendant consciously or
- 448 deliberately engaged in wantonness or malice with regard to



- the plaintiff, as defined in Section 6-11-20, Code of Alabama
- 450 1975.
- Section 7. The State Board of Education shall require
- each local board of education to do all of the following
- 453 before the start of the 2024-2025 school year:
- 454 (1) Develop a written policy on student discipline and
- 455 education related to the distribution of private images as
- 456 defined in Section 13A-6-240, Code of Alabama 1975, and the
- 457 distribution, dissemination, public display, advertising,
- 458 promoting, presenting, soliciting, possession, possession with
- 459 intent to distribute, and production of child sexual abuse
- 460 material as defined in Division 4 of Article 4 of Chapter 12
- of Title 13A, Code of Alabama 1975.
- 462 (2) Include within the written policy a prohibition of
- 463 private, explicit, or pornographic images generated with
- 464 artificial intelligence.
- 465 (3) Broadly disseminate the policy following its
- 466 adoption.
- 467 (4) Distribute copies of the policy to all teachers,
- 468 staff, parents, and students.
- Section 8. Section 13A-12-195, Code of Alabama 1975,
- 470 relating to the commercial exploitation of obscene material,
- 471 is repealed.
- 472 Section 9. Although this bill would have as its purpose
- 473 or effect the requirement of a new or increased expenditure of
- 474 local funds, the bill is excluded from further requirements
- and application under Section 111.05 of the Constitution of
- 476 Alabama of 2022, because the bill defines a new crime or





- amends the definition of an existing crime.
- Section 10. This act shall become effective on October
- 479 1, 2024.



and
Passed
ı