

## SYNOPSIS:

This bill would define the terms "child sexual abuse material," "sexually explicit conduct," and "virtually indistinguishable depiction."

Under existing law, it is unlawful for any person to knowingly disseminate, display publicly, knowingly possess, knowingly possess with intent to disseminate, or knowingly film, print, record, photograph, or otherwise produce certain obscene material depicting an individual under 17 years of age.

This bill would provide that it is unlawful for any person to knowingly disseminate, distribute, display publicly, knowingly possess, knowingly possess with intent to disseminate, or knowingly film, print, record, photograph, or otherwise produce child sexual abuse material.

This bill would also provide that it is unlawful for any person to knowingly advertise, promote, present, or solicit by any means, including by computer, child sexual abuse material.

Under existing law, it is unlawful for any parent or guardian to knowingly permit or allow their child, ward, or dependent under 17 years of age to engage in the production of certain obscene material containing a visual depiction of the child, ward, or



dependent.

This bill would provide that it is unlawful for any parent or guardian to knowingly permit or allow their child, ward, or dependent under 18 years of age to engage in the production of child sexual abuse material depicting the child, ward, or dependent.

This bill would authorize an individual to commence a civil action against a person who commits the crime of distribution of a private image, dissemination or public display of child sexual abuse material, possession of child sexual abuse material, possession with intent to distribute child sexual abuse material, permitting or allowing a child, ward, or dependent to engage in the production of child sexual abuse material as a parent or guardian, or production of child sexual abuse material.

This bill would also authorize a court to award certain punitive damages against an individual who, with wantonness or malice, commits the crime of distribution of a private image, dissemination or public display of child sexual abuse material, possession of child sexual abuse material, possession with intent to distribute child sexual abuse material, permitting or allowing a child, ward, or dependent to engage in the production of child sexual abuse material as a parent or guardian, or production of child sexual abuse material.

This bill would direct the State Board of



Education to require local school boards to develop policies related to the distribution of private images and the distribution, dissemination, public display, possession, possession with intent to distribute, and production of child sexual abuse material.

This bill would also make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the existing code language to current style.

Section 111.05 of the Constitution of Alabama of 2022, prohibits a general law whose purpose or effect would be to require a new or increased expenditure of local funds from becoming effective with regard to a local governmental entity without enactment by a 2/3 vote unless: it comes within one of a number of specified exceptions; it is approved by the affected entity; or the Legislature appropriates funds, or provides a local source of revenue, to the entity for the purpose.

The purpose or effect of this bill would be to require a new or increased expenditure of local funds within the meaning of the section. However, the bill does not require approval of a local governmental entity or enactment by a 2/3 vote to become effective because it comes within one of the specified exceptions contained in the section.

84 A BILL



85	TO BE ENTITLED
86	AN ACT
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88	Relating to child sexual abuse material; to amend
89	Sections 13A-6-240, as last amended by Act 2023-464, 2023
90	Regular Session, 13A-12-190, 13A-12-191, 13A-12-192,
91	13A-12-193, 13A-12-194, 13A-12-196, 13A-12-197, and
92	13A-12-198, Code of Alabama 1975; to further provide for the
93	age of a child for offenses involving child sexual abuse
94	material; to provide for exceptions; to provide a cause of
95	action for certain offenses involving child sexual abuse
96	material; to provide for exceptions; to authorize a court to
97	award punitive damages against an individual who commits
98	certain offenses involving child sexual abuse material; to
99	direct the State Board of Education to require local school
100	boards to develop policies related to certain crimes; to
101	repeal Section 13A-12-195, Code of Alabama 1975, relating to
102	the commercial exploitation of child sexual abuse material; to
103	make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the
104	existing code language to current style; and in connection
105	therewith would have as its purpose or effect the requirement
106	of a new or increased expenditure of local funds within the
107	meaning of Section 111.05 of the Constitution of Alabama of
108	2022.
109	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:
110	Section 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as
111	the Alabama Child Protection Act of 2024.
112	Section 2. The Legislature finds and declares the



- 113 following:
- 114 (1) Child pornography harms and debases the most
  115 defenseless of our residents.
- 116 (2) Child pornography is not entitled to protection 117 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.
- (4) The state thus has a compelling interest in
  ensuring that the criminal prohibitions against child sexual
  abuse material remain enforceable and effective.
- 127 (5) Artificially-generated child sexual abuse material 128 is virtually indistinguishable from actual child sexual abuse 129 material.
- 130 (6) With artificial technology, perpetrators can now 131 computer-generate depictions of children that are 132 indistinguishable from depictions of real children; use parts 133 of images of real children to create a composite image that is 134 unidentifiable as a particular child and in a way that 135 prevents even an expert from concluding that parts of images 136 of real children were used; and disquise pictures of real 137 children being abused by making the image look 138 computer-generated.
- 139 (7) Child sexual abuse material results from the abuse 140 of real children by sex offenders. The production of child



- sexual abuse material is a byproduct of the sexual abuse of children. There is no evidence that the development of artificially-generated child sexual abuse material would stop or even reduce the sexual abuse of real children or the practice of visually recording that abuse.
- 146 (8) Artificially-generated child sexual abuse material 147 re-victimizes actual child victims, as their images are 148 collected from the Internet and studied by artificial 149 intelligence tools to create new images.

- (9) Artificially-generated child sexual abuse material whets the appetites of child molesters who may use the images to seduce children.
- (10) The danger to children who are seduced and molested with the aid of child sexual abuse material is just as great when the child molester or child pornographer uses child sexual abuse material produced wholly or in part by electronic, mechanical, or other means as when the material consists of images of actual children engaged in sexually explicit conduct.
  - (11) Artificially-generated child sexual abuse material provides another means by which child pornographers can profit from child sexual abuse.
- (12) Because artificially-generated child sexual abuse material can be swiftly generated in bulk, law enforcement will often discover large amounts on seized devices, complicating investigations and interfering with efforts to identify and protect child victims and stop the dissemination of the material.



(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.

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- (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.
- 178 (15) Imposing an additional requirement that the state
  179 prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant knew that
  180 the image was in fact an actual child, as some courts have
  181 done, threatens to result in the de facto legalization of the
  182 possession, receipt, and distribution of child sexual abuse
  183 material for all except the original producers of the
  184 material.
- 185 (16) To avoid this grave threat to the state's

  186 unquestioned compelling interest in effective enforcement of

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

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

  189 images.
- 190 (17) For these reasons, actual and
  191 artificially-generated child sexual abuse material, which are
  192 virtually indistinguishable, must now be considered legally
  193 indistinguishable and subject to the criminal penalties
  194 provided in current law.
- 195 Section 3. Section 13A-6-240, as last amended by Act 196 2023-464, 2023 Regular Session, Sections 13A-12-190,



- 197 13A-12-191, 13A-12-192, 13A-12-193, 13A-12-194, 13A-12-196,
  198 13A-12-197, and 13A-12-198, Code of Alabama 1975, are amended
  199 to read as follows:
- 200 "\$13A-6-240

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- 201 (a) A person commits the crime of distributing a
  202 private image if he or she knowingly posts, emails, texts,
  203 transmits, or otherwise distributes a private image when the
  204 depicted person individual has not consented to the
  205 transmission and the depicted person individual had a
  206 reasonable expectation of privacy against transmission of the
  207 private image.
- (b) (1) For purposes of this section, "private image" 208 209 means a photograph, digital image, video, film, or other recording of a person an individual who is identifiable from 210 211 the recording itself or from the circumstances of its transmission and who is engaged in any act of sadomasochistic 212 abuse, sexual intercourse, sexual excitement, masturbation, 213 breast nudity, as defined in Section 13A-12-190, genital 214 nudity, or other sexual conducts exually explicit conduct, as 215 216 defined in Section 13A-12-190.
  - (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 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.



225 b. The sexual conduct depicted in the image was 226 involuntary.

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- 227 (2) There is no reasonable expectation of privacy 228 against the transmission of a private image made voluntarily 229 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.
- 242 (f) A violation of this section is a Class A 243 misdemeanor. A subsequent adjudication or conviction under 244 this section is a Class C felony.
- 245 (g) No Internet service provider, search engine, cloud 246 service provider, or affiliate or subsidiary of any of the 247 same, shall be held to have violated this section soley for 248 providing access or connection to or from a website, other 249 information or content on the Internet, or a facility, system, 250 or network not under the control of the provider, including, but not limited to, the transmission, download, or 251 252
  - intermediate storage of content that is child sexual abuse



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      material."
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             "$13A-12-190
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             For the purposes of this division, the following terms
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      shall have the following meanings respectively ascribed to
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      them by this section:
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             (1) (4) DISSEMINATE. To transmit, distribute, sell,
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      lend, provide, transfer, or show, including through electronic
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      means.
             (2) (3) DISPLAY PUBLICLY. The exposing, placing,
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      posting, exhibiting, or in any fashion displaying in any
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      location, whether public or private, an item in such a manner
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      that it may be readily seen and its content or character
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      distinguished by normal unaided vision viewing it from a
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      public thoroughfare, depot, or vehicle.
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             (3) (9) PUBLIC THOROUGHFARE, DEPOT, OR VEHICLE. Any
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      street, highway, park, depot, or transportation platform or
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      other place, whether indoors or outoutdoors, or any vehicle
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      for public transportation, owned or operated by government,
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      either directly or through a public corporation or authority,
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      or owned or operated by any agency of public transportation
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      that is designed for the use, enjoyment, or transportation of
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      the general public.
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             (4) (6) KNOWINGLY. A person knowingly disseminates or
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      publicly displays obscene matter acts when the person knows
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      the nature of the matterchild sexual abuse material. A person
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      knows the nature of the matter material when either of the
      following circumstances exist:
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a. The person is aware of the character and content of

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281 the mattermaterial.

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- b. The person recklessly disregards circumstances suggesting the character and content of the mattermaterial.
- 284 (5) (10) SADO-MASOCHISTIC SADOMASOCHISTIC ABUSE. Such
  285 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.
- 293  $\frac{(6)}{(12)}$  SEXUAL EXCITEMENT. The condition of human male 294 or female genitals when in a state of sexual stimulation.
- 295 (7) (13) SEXUAL INTERCOURSE. Intercourse, real or
  296 simulated, whether genital-genital, oral-genital,
  297 anal-genital, or oral-anal, whether between persons
  298 individuals of the same or opposite sex or between a human and
  299 an animal.
- 300 (8) (7) MASTURBATION. Manipulation, by hand or
  301 instrument, of the human genitals, whether one's own or
  302 another's for the purpose of sexual stimulation.
- 303 (9)(8) OTHER SEXUAL CONDUCT. Any touching of the
  304 genitals, pubic areas, or buttocks of the human male or
  305 female, or the breasts of the female, whether alone or between
  306 members of the same or opposite sex or between humans and
  307 animals in an act of apparent sexual stimulation or
  308 gratification.



309 (10) (1) BREAST NUDITY. The lewd showing of the 310 post-pubertal human female breasts below a point immediately above the top of the areola. 311 312 (11)(5) GENITAL NUDITY. The lewd showing of the 313 genitals or pubic area. 314 (12) MATTER. Any book, magazine, newspaper, or other 315 printed material, or any picture, photograph, motion picture, 316 video cassette, tape, record, digital video disc (DVD), video compilation, or electronic depiction in a comparable format, 317 or an image, file, download, or other content stored, or 318 319 reproduced by using a computer or electronic device or other 320 digital storage, or any other thing, articles, or materials 321 that either are or contain a photographic or other visual 322 depiction of a live act, performance, or event. 323 (13) OBSCENE, a. When used to describe any matter that contains a visual reproduction of breast nudity, the term 324 325 shall include all of the following: 326 1. Applying contemporary local community standards, the whole, appeals to the prurient interest. 327 328 2. Is patently offensive. 329 3. On the whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, 330 political, or scientific value. 331 b. When used to describe matter that is a depiction act of sado-masochistic abuse, sexual intercourse, sexual 332 333 excitement, masturbation, genital nudity, or other sexual 334 conduct, the term means matter containing a visual reproduction that itself lacks serious literary, artistic, 335 336 political, or scientific value.



337 (14) LOCAL COMMUNITY. The judicial circuit 338 indictment is brought. 339 (15) VISUAL DEPICTION. A portrayal, representation, 340 illustration, image, likeness, or other thing that creates sensory impression, whether an original, duplicate, or 341 342 reproduction. 343 (16) (11) SEPARATE OFFENSE. The depiction of an 344 individual less than 17-18 years of age that violates this 345 division shall constitute a separate offense for each single visual depiction. 346 347 (2) CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE MATERIAL. Any visual depiction of an individual under 18 years of age engaged in any act of 348 349 sexually explicit conduct, including a virtually 350 indistinguishable depiction. 351 (14) SEXUALLY EXPLICIT CONDUCT. Actual or simulated conduct that includes sadomasochistic abuse, sexual 352 353 excitement, sexual intercourse, masturbation, breast nudity, 354 genital nudity, or other sexual conduct. 355 (15) VIRTUALLY INDISTINGUISHABLE DEPICTION. A visual 356 depiction created, altered, or produced by digital, computer 357 generated, or other means that a reasonable person would 358 conclude is of an actual individual under 18 years of age 359 engaged in sexually explicit conduct." "\$13A-12-191 360 361 (a) Any person who shall knowingly disseminate or 362 display publicly any obscene matter containing a visual depiction of a person under the age of 17 years engaged in any 363 364 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."

376 "\$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 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



393 <u>nudity, genital nudity, or other sexual conduct child sexual</u>
394 <u>abuse material</u> 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 obscence matter visual depiction is under the age of 17 18 years of age:
- (1) The general body growth and bone structure of the person; individual.
- 419 (2) The development of pubic hair or body hair on the 420 person; individual.



- 421 (3) The development of the <a href="mailto:person">person's individual's</a> sexual organs;
- 423 (4) The context in which the person\_individual\_is
  424 placed by any accompanying printed or text material.
- 425 (5) Any expert testimony as to the degree of maturity 426 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."

442 "\$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\_individual</u> 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, 13A-12-196 and 13A-12-197, which are visual depictionact of



449 sexually explicit conduct." "\$13A-12-196 450 451 Any parent or quardian responsible person, as defined in 452 Section 26-15-2, who knowingly permits or allows their child, 453 ward, or dependent under the age of 17 18 years of age to 454 engage in the production of any obscene matter child sexual 455 abuse material containing a visual depiction of such the 456 child, ward, or dependent under the age of 17 years engaged in 457 any act of sado-masochistic abuse, sexual excitement, masturbation, breast nudity, genital nudity, or other sexual 458 conduct shall be guilty of a Class A felony." 459 "\$13A-12-197 460 461 (a) Any person who knowingly films, prints, records, 462 photographs, or otherwise produces any obscene matter that 463 contains a visual depiction of a person under the age of 17 464 years engaged in any act of sado-masochistic abuse, sexual 465 intercourse, sexual excitement, masturbation, breast nudity, 466 genital nudity, or other sexual conduct child sexual abuse 467 material shall be quilty of a Class A felony. 468 (b) For any person who violates this section, each 469 depiction of each individual less than 17 years of age 470 constitutes a separate offense." "\$13A-12-198 471 472 Any article, equipment, machine, materials, matter, 473 vehicle, or other thing whatsoever used in the commercial production, transportation, dissemination, display, or storage 474 of any obscene matter displaying or depicting a person under 475 476 the age of 17 years engaged in any of the obscene acts



- 477 described in Sections 13A-12-191, 13A-12-192, 13A-12-196 and 478 13A-12-197 child sexual abuse material shall be contraband and 479 shall be forfeited to the State of Alabama. The manner, 480 method, and procedure for the forfeiture and condemnation of 481 such the thing shall be the same as that provided by law for 482 the confiscation—or, condemnation, or forfeiture of 483 automobiles, conveyances, or vehicles in which alcoholic 484 beverages are illegally transported." 485 Section 4. (a) For the purposes of Division 4 of Article 4 of Chapter 12 of Title 13A, Code of Alabama 1975, 486 487 each depiction of child sexual abuse material that violates 488 any section constitutes a separate offense.
- 489 (b) No Internet service provider, search engine, cloud 490 service provider, or affiliate or subsidiary of any of the 491 same, shall be held to have violated this division solely for 492 providing access or connection to or from a website, other 493 information or content on the Internet, or a facility, system, 494 or network not under the control of the provider, including, 495 but not limited to, the transmission, download, or 496 intermediate storage of content that is child sexual abuse 497 material.
- Section 5. (a) An individual who commits any of the following crimes is civilly liable to the individual depicted in the relevant image:
- 501 (1) Distributing a private image, pursuant to Section 502 13A-6-240, Code of Alabama 1975.
- 503 (2) Dissemination, distribution, or public display of 504 child sexual abuse material, pursuant to Section 13A-12-191,



505 Code of Alabama 1975.

Alabama 1975.

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- 506 (3) Possession of child sexual abuse material, pursuant to Section 13A-12-192, Code of Alabama 1975.
- 508 (4) Possession with intent to distribute child sexual 509 abuse material, pursuant to Section 13A-12-192, Code of
- 511 (5) Permitting or allowing a child, ward, or dependent 512 to engage in production of child sexual abuse material as a 513 parent or guardian, pursuant to Section 13A-12-196, Code of 514 Alabama 1975.
- 515 (6) Production of child sexual abuse material, pursuant 516 to Section 13A-12-197, Code of Alabama 1975.
- (7) Advertising, promoting, presenting, or soliciting child sexual abuse material, pursuant to Section 13A-12-191, Code of Alabama 1975.
- 520 (b) No civil action may be brought pursuant to this 521 section for actions taken to prevent, detect, protect against, 522 report, or respond to the production, generation, 523 incorporation, or synthesization through artificial
- Section 6. Civil liability pursuant to Section 5 shall consist of all of the following:
- 527 (1) The full actual damages incurred.
- 528 (2) Court costs and reasonable attorney fees.

intelligence of child sexual abuse material.

3) Punitive damages, if the plaintiff proves by clear and convincing evidence that the defendant consciously or deliberately engaged in wantonness or malice with regard to the plaintiff, as defined in Section 6-11-20, Code of Alabama



- 533 1975.
- Section 7. The State Board of Education shall require
- each local board of education to do all of the following
- before the start of the 2024-2025 school year:
- 537 (1) Develop a written policy on student discipline and
- education related to the distribution of private images as
- 539 defined in Section 13A-6-240, Code of Alabama 1975, and the
- 540 distribution, dissemination, public display, advertising,
- 541 promoting, presenting, soliciting, possession, possession with
- intent to distribute, and production of child sexual abuse
- 543 material as defined in Division 4 of Article 4 of Chapter 12
- of Title 13A, Code of Alabama 1975.
- 545 (2) Include within the written policy a prohibition of
- 546 private, explicit, or pornographic images generated with
- 547 artificial intelligence.
- 548 (3) Broadly disseminate the policy following its
- 549 adoption.
- 550 (4) Distribute copies of the policy to all teachers,
- 551 staff, parents, and students.
- 552 Section 8. Section 13A-12-195, Code of Alabama 1975,
- relating to the commercial exploitation of obscene material,
- is repealed.
- Section 9. Although this bill would have as its purpose
- or effect the requirement of a new or increased expenditure of
- 557 local funds, the bill is excluded from further requirements
- 558 and application under Section 111.05 of the Constitution of
- 559 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 1, 2024.