

House Bill 156 (AS PASSED HOUSE AND SENATE)

By: Representatives Neal of the 2nd, Atwood of the 179th, Nix of the 69th, Hitchens of the 161st, and Hightower of the 68th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 2 of Article 3 of Chapter 12 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to offenses against minors generally, so as to modernize provisions of
3 the Code relating to sexual conduct and technology; to provide reduced punishment of
4 certain crimes committed by children; to clarify certain acts as the elements of unlawfully
5 seducing, soliciting, luring, or enticing a child through use of a computer, Internet service,
6 or similar service; to revise definitions; to provide reduced punishment of certain crimes
7 committed by children; to clarify certain acts as the elements of unlawfully seducing,
8 soliciting, luring, or enticing a child through use of a computer, Internet service, or similar
9 service; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

11 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

12 Part 2 of Article 3 of Chapter 12 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
13 relating to offenses against minors generally, is amended by revising subsections (d) and (g)
14 of Code Section 16-12-100, relating to sexual exploitation of children, as follows:

15 "(d) The provisions of subsection (b) of this Code section shall not apply to:

16 (1) The ~~the~~ activities of law enforcement and prosecution agencies in the investigation
17 and prosecution of criminal offenses;

18 (2) Legitimate ~~or to legitimate~~ medical, scientific, or educational activities; or

19 (3) Any person who creates or possesses a visual medium depicting only himself or
20 herself engaged in sexually explicit conduct."

21 "(g)(1) Except as otherwise provided in ~~paragraph~~ paragraphs (2) and (3) of this
22 subsection, any person who violates a provision of this Code section shall be guilty of a
23 felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than
24 five nor more than 20 years and by a fine of not more than \$100,000.00. ~~In the event;~~
25 provided, however, that if the person so convicted is a member of the immediate family
26 of the victim, no fine shall be imposed.

27 (2) Any person who violates subsection (c) of this Code section shall be guilty of a
28 misdemeanor.

29 (3) Any person who violates paragraph (1), (5), (7), or (8) of subsection (b) of this Code
30 section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor if:

31 (A) The minor depicted was at least 14 years of age at the time the visual medium was
32 created;

33 (B) The visual medium was created with the permission of the minor depicted; and

34 (C) The defendant was 18 years of age or younger at the time of the offense and:

35 (i) The defendant's violation of such paragraphs did not involve the distribution of
36 such visual medium to another person; or

37 (ii) In the court's discretion, and when the prosecuting attorney and the defendant
38 have agreed, if the defendant's violation of such paragraphs involved the distribution
39 of such visual medium to another person but such distribution was not for the purpose
40 of:

41 (I) Harassing, intimidating, or embarrassing the minor depicted; or

42 (II) For any commercial purpose."

43 **SECTION 2.**

44 Said part is further amended in Code Section 16-12-100.1, relating to electronically
45 furnishing obscene materials to minors, by revising paragraphs (1) and (3) of subsection (a)
46 and subsection (c) and by adding a new subsection to read as follows:

47 "(1) 'Bulletin board system' means a computer data and file service that is accessed
48 wirelessly or by telephone line physical connection to store and transmit information."

49 "(3) 'Electronically furnishes' means:

50 (A) To make available by electronic storage device, including floppy disks and other
51 magnetic storage devices, or by CD-ROM; or

52 (B) To make available by allowing access to information stored in a computer,
53 including making material available by operating a computer bulletin board system."

54 "(c) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this Code section, any Any person who
55 violates this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of a high and aggravated nature.

56 (d) Any person who violates this Code section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor if:

57 (1) At the time of the offense, the minor receiving the obscene materials was at least 14
58 years of age;

59 (2) The receipt of the materials was with the permission of the minor; and

60 (3) The defendant was 18 years of age or younger."

61 **SECTION 3.**

62 Said part is further amended by revising subsections (c), (d), and (e) of Code Section
 63 16-12-100.2, relating to computer or electronic pornography and child exploitation
 64 prevention, as follows:

65 "(c)(1) A person commits the offense of computer or electronic pornography if such
 66 person intentionally or willfully:

67 (A) Compiles, enters into, or transmits by computer or other electronic device;

68 (B) Makes, prints, publishes, or reproduces by other computer or other electronic
 69 device;

70 (C) Causes or allows to be entered into or transmitted by computer or other electronic
 71 device; or

72 (D) Buys, sells, receives, exchanges, or disseminates

73 any notice, statement, or advertisement, or any child's name, telephone number, place of
 74 residence, physical characteristics, or other descriptive or identifying information for the
 75 purpose of offering or soliciting sexual conduct of or with an identifiable child or the
 76 visual depiction of such conduct.

77 (2) Except as provided in paragraphs (3) and (4) of this subsection, any Any person
 78 convicted of violating paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be punished by a fine of not
 79 more than \$10,000.00 and by imprisonment for not less than one nor more than 20 years.

80 (3) Any person who violates paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be guilty of a
 81 misdemeanor if:

82 (A) At the time of the offense, any identifiable child visually depicted was at least 14
 83 years of age when the visual depiction was created;

84 (B) The visual depiction was created with the permission of such child;

85 (C) The defendant possessed the visual depiction with the permission of such child;
 86 and

87 (D) The defendant was 18 years of age or younger at the time of the offense and:

88 (i) The defendant did not distribute the visual depiction to another person; or

89 (ii) In the court's discretion, and when the prosecuting attorney and the defendant
 90 have agreed, if the defendant's violation involved the distribution of such visual
 91 depiction to another person but such distribution was not for the purpose of:

92 (I) Harassing, intimidating, or embarrassing the minor depicted; or

93 (II) For any commercial purpose.

94 (4) The prohibition contained in paragraph (1) of this subsection shall not apply to any
 95 person who creates or possesses a visual depiction of only himself or herself.

96 (d)(1) It shall be unlawful for any person intentionally or willfully to utilize a computer
 97 ~~on-line~~ wireless service or Internet service, including, but not limited to, a local bulletin

98 board service, Internet chat room, e-mail, ~~on-line~~ instant messaging service, or other
 99 electronic device, to seduce, solicit, lure, or entice, or attempt to seduce, solicit, lure, or
 100 entice a child ~~or~~, another person believed by such person to be a child, any person having
 101 custody or control of a child, or another person believed by such person to have custody
 102 or control of a child to commit any illegal act by, with, or against a child as described in
 103 Code Section 16-6-2, relating to the offense of sodomy or aggravated sodomy; Code
 104 Section 16-6-4, relating to the offense of child molestation or aggravated child
 105 molestation; Code Section 16-6-5, relating to the offense of enticing a child for indecent
 106 purposes; or Code Section 16-6-8, relating to the offense of public indecency, or to
 107 engage in any conduct that by its nature is an unlawful sexual offense against a child.

108 (2) Any person who violates paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be guilty of a felony
 109 and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than one nor
 110 more than 20 years and by a fine of not more than \$25,000.00; provided, however, that;
 111 if at the time of the offense the victim was at least 14 ~~or 15~~ years of age and the defendant
 112 was ~~no more than three years older than the victim~~ 18 years of age or younger, then the
 113 defendant shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of a ~~high and aggravated nature~~.

114 (e)(1) A person commits the offense of obscene Internet contact with a child if he or she
 115 has contact with someone he or she knows to be a child or with someone he or she
 116 believes to be a child via a computer ~~on-line~~ wireless service or Internet service,
 117 including, but not limited to, a local bulletin board service, Internet chat room, e-mail, or
 118 ~~on-line~~ instant messaging service, and the contact involves any matter containing explicit
 119 verbal descriptions or narrative accounts of sexually explicit nudity, sexual conduct,
 120 sexual excitement, or sadomasochistic abuse that is intended to arouse or satisfy the
 121 sexual desire of either the child or the person, provided that no conviction shall be had
 122 for a violation of this subsection on the unsupported testimony of a child.

123 (2) Any person who violates paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be guilty of a felony
 124 and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by imprisonment for not less than one nor
 125 more than ten years or by a fine of not more than \$10,000.00; provided, however, that;
 126 if at the time of the offense the victim was at least 14 ~~or 15~~ years of age and the defendant
 127 was ~~no more than three years older than the victim~~ 18 years of age or younger, then the
 128 defendant shall be guilty of a misdemeanor of a ~~high and aggravated nature.~~"

129 **SECTION 4.**

130 Said part is further amended by revising Code Section 16-12-105, relating to penalties for
 131 violating Code Sections 16-12-103 and 16-12-104, as follows:

132 "16-12-105.

133 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this Code section, any Any person who violates
134 any provision of Code Section 16-12-103 or 16-12-104 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor
135 of a high and aggravated nature.

136 (b) Any person who violates subsection (a) of Code Section 16-12-103 shall be guilty of
137 a misdemeanor if:

138 (1) The person depicted was at least 14 years of age;

139 (2) The items described in subsection (a) of Code Section 16-12-103 were furnished or
140 disseminated with the permission of the minor depicted; and

141 (3) The defendant was 18 years of age or younger at the time of the offense."

142 **SECTION 5.**

143 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.