

House Bill 993 (COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE)

By: Representatives Powell of the 33<sup>rd</sup>, Smith of the 18<sup>th</sup>, Ridley of the 6<sup>th</sup>, McCollum of the 30<sup>th</sup>, Collins of the 71<sup>st</sup>, and others

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 related to minors generally, so as to provide for the offense  
3 of grooming a minor; to provide for definitions; to provide for a penalty; to provide for venue  
4 for certain conduct involving a minor; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting  
5 laws; and for other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Part 2 of Article 3 of Chapter 12 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,  
9 relating to offenses related to minors generally, is amended by adding a new Code section  
10 to read as follows:

11 "16-12-100.5.

12 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

13 (1) 'Computer' has the same meaning as provided in Code Section 16-9-92.

14 (2) 'Electronic device' has the same meaning as provided in Code Section 16-12-100.2.

15 (3) 'Minor' means any person under the age of 18 years.

16 (4) 'Sexual offense' has the same meaning as provided in Code Section 17-10-6.2.

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- 17 (5) 'Sexual servitude' has the same meaning as provided in Code Section 16-5-46.
- 18 (b) A person over the age of 18 and no less than 48 months older than the alleged victim  
19 commits the offense of grooming of a minor when such person through a pattern of activity  
20 knowingly and intentionally performs an act in person or through a third party or uses an  
21 electronic device, a computer, social media, or text messages to persuade, induce, entice,  
22 or coerce a minor to engage in a sexual offense, trafficking of persons for sexual servitude  
23 in violation of Code Section 16-5-46, or any offense provided for in Chapter 6 of this title.
- 24 (c) Any person who violates this Code section shall be guilty of a felony and punished by  
25 imprisonment for not less than one nor more than five years.
- 26 (d) A person shall be subject to prosecution in this state pursuant to Code Section 17-2-1  
27 for any conduct made unlawful by this Code section which the person engages in while:
- 28 (1) Either within or outside of this state if such conduct involves a minor who resides in  
29 this state or another person believed by such person to be a minor residing in this state;  
30 or
- 31 (2) Within this state if such conduct involves a minor who resides within or outside this  
32 state or another person believed by such person to be a minor residing within or outside  
33 this state."

34 **SECTION 2.**

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