

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1402 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY NESBIT, McCLINTON, KAUFFMAN, HOWARD, SCHLOSSBERG, DONATUCCI, CALTAGIRONE, READSHAW, BERNSTINE, BOBACK, WILLIAMS, ISAACSON, KINSEY, FRANKEL, HILL-EVANS, IRVIN, TOPPER, MILLARD, WARREN, MARSHALL, DeLUCA, TOOHIL, MULLINS, MURT, STEPHENS, DELOZIER, GILLEN, DAWKINS AND KLUNK, MAY 6, 2019

AS REPORTED FROM COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, AS AMENDED, MAY 14, 2019

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in sexual offenses, providing for the
3 offense of sexual extortion.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Title 18 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
7 Statutes is amended by adding a section to read:

8 § 3132. Sexual extortion.

9 (a) Offense defined.--A person commits the offense of sexual
10 extortion if the person knowingly or intentionally coerces or
11 causes a complainant, through any means set forth in subsection

12 (b), to:

13 (1) engage in sexual conduct, the simulation of sexual
14 conduct or a state of nudity; or

15 (2) make, produce, disseminate, transmit or distribute
16 any image, video, recording or other material depicting the

1 complainant in a state of nudity or engaging in sexual
2 conduct or in the simulation of sexual conduct.

3 (b) Means of subjecting complainant to sexual extortion.--A
4 person subjects a complainant to sexual extortion through any of
5 the following means:

6 (1) Harming or threatening to harm the complainant or
7 the property of the complainant, the reputation of the
8 complainant or any other thing of value of the complainant.

9 (2) Making, producing, disseminating, transmitting or
10 distributing or threatening to make, produce, disseminate,
11 transmit or distribute any image, video, recording or other
12 material depicting the complainant in a state of nudity or
13 engaged in sexual conduct or in the simulation of sexual
14 conduct.

15 (3) Exposing or threatening to expose any fact or piece
16 of information that, if revealed, would tend to subject the
17 complainant to criminal proceedings, a civil action, hatred,
18 contempt, embarrassment or ridicule.

19 (4) Holding out, withholding or threatening to withhold
20 a service, employment, position or other thing of value.

21 (5) Threatening to cause or causing a loss, disadvantage
22 or injury, including a loss, disadvantage or injury to a
23 family or household member, as defined in section 2709.1
24 (relating to stalking).

25 ~~(c) Demanding property. A person commits the offense of~~ <--
26 ~~sexual extortion if the person knowingly or intentionally~~
27 ~~solicits or demands the payment of money, property or services~~
28 ~~or any other thing of value in exchange for removing from public~~
29 ~~view or preventing the disclosure of any image, video, recording~~
30 ~~or other material depicting the complainant in a state of nudity~~

1 ~~or engaging in sexual conduct or the simulation of sexual~~
2 ~~conduct.~~

3 (C) DEMANDING PROPERTY.--A PERSON COMMITS THE OFFENSE OF <--
4 SEXUAL EXTORTION IF THE PERSON KNOWINGLY OR INTENTIONALLY:

5 (1) SOLICITS OR DEMANDS THE PAYMENT OF MONEY, PROPERTY
6 OR SERVICES OR ANY OTHER THING OF VALUE FROM THE COMPLAINANT
7 IN EXCHANGE FOR REMOVING FROM PUBLIC VIEW OR PREVENTING THE
8 DISCLOSURE OF ANY IMAGE, VIDEO, RECORDING OR OTHER MATERIAL
9 OBTAINED THROUGH A VIOLATION OF SUBSECTION(A) (2); OR

10 (2) DISSEMINATES, TRANSMITS OR DISTRIBUTES, OR THREATENS
11 TO DISSEMINATE, TRANSMIT OR DISTRIBUTE, AN IMAGE, VIDEO,
12 RECORDING OR OTHER MATERIAL DEPICTING THE COMPLAINANT IN A
13 STATE OF NUDITY OR ENGAGING IN SEXUAL CONDUCT OR THE
14 SIMULATION OF SEXUAL CONDUCT TO ANOTHER PERSON OR ENTITY,
15 INCLUDING A COMMERCIAL SOCIAL NETWORKING SITE, AND SOLICITS
16 OR DEMANDS THE PAYMENT OF MONEY, PROPERTY OR SERVICES OR ANY
17 OTHER THING OF VALUE FROM THE COMPLAINANT IN EXCHANGE FOR
18 REMOVING FROM PUBLIC VIEW OR PREVENTING DISCLOSURE OF THE
19 IMAGE, VIDEO, RECORDING OR OTHER MATERIAL.

20 (d) Grading.--

21 (1) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (2), a
22 violation of this section shall constitute a misdemeanor of
23 the first degree.

24 (2) A violation of this section shall constitute a
25 felony of the third degree if:

26 (i) the complainant is under 18 years of age;
27 (ii) the complainant has an intellectual disability;
28 (iii) the actor holds a position of trust or
29 supervisory or disciplinary power over the complainant by
30 virtue of the actor's legal, professional or occupational

1 status;

2 (iv) the violation is part of a course of conduct of
3 sexual extortion by the actor; or

4 (v) the actor was previously convicted of a
5 violation of this section or of a similar offense in
6 another jurisdiction.

7 (e) Sentencing.--The Pennsylvania Commission on Sentencing,
8 in accordance with 42 Pa.C.S. § 2154 (relating to adoption of
9 guidelines for sentencing), shall provide for a sentence
10 enhancement within its guidelines for an offense under this
11 section when at the time of the offense the complainant is under
12 18 years of age or has an intellectual disability or the actor
13 holds a position of trust or supervisory or disciplinary power
14 over the complainant by virtue of the actor's legal,
15 professional or occupational status.

16 (f) Venue.--

17 (1) An offense committed under this section may be
18 deemed to have been committed at either the place at which
19 the communication was made or at the place where the
20 communication was received.

21 (2) Acts indicating a course of conduct which occur in
22 more than one jurisdiction may be used by any other
23 jurisdiction in which an act occurred as evidence of a
24 continuing pattern of conduct or a course of conduct.

25 (g) Territorial applicability.--A person may be convicted
26 under the provisions of this section if the complainant or the
27 offender is located within this Commonwealth.

28 (h) Concurrent jurisdiction to prosecute.--In addition to
29 the authority conferred upon the Attorney General by the act of
30 October 15, 1980 (P.L.950, No.164), known as the Commonwealth

1 Attorneys Act, the Attorney General shall have the authority to
2 investigate and to institute criminal proceedings for any
3 violation of this section or any series of violations involving
4 more than one county of this Commonwealth or another state. No
5 person charged with a violation of this section by the Attorney
6 General shall have standing to challenge the authority of the
7 Attorney General to investigate or prosecute the case, and, if a
8 challenge is made, the challenge shall be dismissed, and no
9 relief shall be made available in the courts of this
10 Commonwealth to the person making the challenge.

11 (I) APPLICABILITY.--NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL BE <--
12 CONSTRUED TO APPLY TO:

13 (1) A PERSON WHO ACTS WITHIN THE LEGITIMATE AND LAWFUL
14 COURSE OF THE PERSON'S EMPLOYMENT.

15 (2) WORKS OF PUBLIC INTEREST, INCLUDING COMMENTARY,
16 SATIRE OR PARODY.

17 ~~(i)~~ (J) Definitions.--As used in this section, the following <--
18 words and phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this
19 subsection unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

20 "COMMERCIAL SOCIAL NETWORKING SITE." A BUSINESS, <--
21 ORGANIZATION OR OTHER SIMILAR ENTITY THAT OPERATES AN INTERNET
22 WEBSITE AND PERMITS PERSONS TO BECOME REGISTERED USERS FOR THE
23 PURPOSES OF ESTABLISHING PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER USERS
24 THROUGH DIRECT OR REAL-TIME COMMUNICATION WITH OTHER USERS OR
25 THE CREATION OF WEB PAGES OR PROFILES AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC OR
26 TO OTHER USERS. THE TERM DOES NOT INCLUDE AN ELECTRONIC MAIL
27 PROGRAM OR A MESSAGE BOARD PROGRAM.

28 "Course of conduct." A pattern of actions composed of more
29 than one act over a period of time, however short, evidencing a
30 continuity of conduct.

1 "Disseminate." To cause or make an electronic or actual
2 communication from one place or electronic communication device
3 to two or more other persons, places or electronic communication
4 devices.

5 "Distribute." To sell, lend, rent, lease, give, advertise,
6 publish or exhibit in a physical or electronic medium.

7 "Intellectual disability." Regardless of the age of the
8 individual, significantly subaverage general intellectual
9 functioning that is accompanied by significant limitations in
10 adaptive functioning in at least two of the following skill
11 areas: communication; self-care; home living; social and
12 interpersonal skills; use of community resources' self-
13 direction; functional academic skills; work; health; and safety.

14 "Nudity." As defined in section 5903(e) (relating to obscene
15 and other sexual materials and performances).

16 "Sexual conduct." Any of the following:

17 (1) Intentional touching by the complainant or actor,
18 either directly or through clothing, of the complainant's or
19 actor's intimate parts. Sexual contact of the actor with
20 himself must be in view of the complainant whom the actor
21 knows to be present.

22 (2) Sexual intercourse as defined in section 3101
23 (relating to definitions), masturbation, sadism, masochism,
24 bestiality, fellatio, cunnilingus or lewd exhibition of the
25 genitals.

26 "Simulation." Conduct engaged in that is depicted in a
27 manner that would cause a reasonable viewer to believe was
28 sexual conduct, even if sexual conduct did not occur.

29 "Transmit." To cause or make an electronic or actual
30 communication from one place or electronic communication device

1 to another person, place or electronic communication device.

2 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.