

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, KLUNK, KORTZ, MALAGARI, WEBSTER, DUSH, KENYATTA AND DALEY, MAY 6, 2019

SENATOR BAKER, JUDICIARY, IN SENATE, AS AMENDED, OCTOBER 29, 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~~ 3133. Sexual extortion.

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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

1 any image, video, recording or other material depicting the  
2 complainant in a state of nudity or engaging in sexual  
3 conduct or in the simulation of sexual conduct.

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 (c) Demanding property.--A person commits the offense of  
27 sexual extortion if the person knowingly or intentionally:

28 (1) solicits or demands the payment of money, property  
29 or services or any other thing of value from the complainant  
30 OR A FAMILY OR HOUSEHOLD MEMBER OF THE COMPLAINANT in <--

1 exchange for removing from public view or preventing the  
2 disclosure of any image, video, recording or other material  
3 obtained through a violation of subsection(a)(2); or

4 (2) disseminates, transmits or distributes, or threatens  
5 to disseminate, transmit or distribute, an image, video,  
6 recording or other material depicting the complainant in a  
7 state of nudity or engaging in sexual conduct or the  
8 simulation of sexual conduct to another person or entity,  
9 including a commercial social networking site, and solicits  
10 or demands the payment of money, property or services or any  
11 other thing of value from the complainant OR A FAMILY OR <--  
12 HOUSEHOLD MEMBER OF THE COMPLAINANT in exchange for removing  
13 from public view or preventing disclosure of the image,  
14 video, recording or other material.

15 (d) Grading.--

16 (1) Except as otherwise provided in paragraphs (2) and  
17 (3), a violation of this section shall constitute a  
18 misdemeanor of the first degree.

19 (2) A violation of this section shall constitute a  
20 felony of the third degree if the actor is at least 18 years  
21 of age and:

22 (i) the complainant is under 18 years of age;

23 (ii) the complainant has an intellectual disability;

24 or

25 (iii) the actor holds a position of trust or  
26 supervisory or disciplinary power over the complainant by  
27 virtue of the actor's legal, professional or occupational  
28 status.

29 (3) A violation of this section shall constitute a  
30 felony of the third degree if:

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

3           (ii) the actor was previously convicted or  
4           adjudicated delinquent of a violation of this section or  
5           of a similar offense in another jurisdiction.

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

15           (f) Venue.--

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

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

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

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

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

10 (i) Applicability.--Nothing in this section shall be  
11 construed to apply to:

12 (1) A person who acts within the legitimate and lawful  
13 course of the person's employment.

14 (2) Works of public interest, including commentary,  
15 satire or parody.

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

19 "Commercial social networking site." A business,  
20 organization or other similar entity that operates an Internet  
21 website and permits persons to become registered users for the  
22 purposes of establishing personal relationships with other users  
23 through direct or real-time communication with other users or  
24 the creation of web pages or profiles available to the public or  
25 to other users. The term does not include an electronic mail  
26 program or a message board program.

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

30 "Disseminate." To cause or make an electronic or actual

1 communication from one place or electronic communication device  
2 to two or more other persons, places or electronic communication  
3 devices.

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

6 "FAMILY OR HOUSEHOLD MEMBER." AS DEFINED IN SECTION  
7 2709.1(F) (RELATING TO STALKING).

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

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

17 "Sexual conduct." Any of the following:

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

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

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

30 "Transmit." To cause or make an electronic or actual

1 communication from one place or electronic communication device  
2 to another person, place or electronic communication device.

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