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HOUSE BILL NO. 2310

Offered January 13, 2025

Prefiled January 8, 2025

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 17.1-805 and 18.2-374.3 of the Code of Virginia, relating to use of communications system to expose sexual or genital parts to a child; penalty.

Patrons—Davis and Lovejoy

Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 17.1-805 and 18.2-374.3 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 17.1-805. Adoption of initial discretionary sentencing guideline midpoints.

A. The Commission shall adopt an initial set of discretionary felony sentencing guidelines which shall become effective on January 1, 1995. The initial recommended sentencing range for each felony offense shall be determined first, by computing the actual time-served distribution for similarly situated offenders, in terms of their conviction offense and prior criminal history, released from incarceration during the base period of calendar years 1988 through 1992, increased by 13.4 percent, and second, by eliminating from this range the upper and lower quartiles. The midpoint of each initial recommended sentencing range shall be the median time served for the middle two quartiles and subject to the following additional enhancements:

1. The midpoint of the initial recommended sentencing range for first degree murder, second degree murder, rape in violation of § 18.2-61, forcible sodomy, object sexual penetration, and aggravated sexual battery shall be further increased by (i) 125 percent in cases in which the defendant has no previous conviction of a violent felony offense; (ii) 300 percent in cases in which the defendant has previously been convicted of a violent felony offense punishable by a maximum punishment of less than 40 years; or (iii) 500 percent in cases in which the defendant has previously been convicted of a violent felony offense punishable by a maximum punishment of 40 years or more, except that the recommended sentence for a defendant convicted of first degree murder who has previously been convicted of a violent felony offense punishable by a maximum term of imprisonment of 40 years or more shall be imprisonment for life;

2. The midpoint of the initial recommended sentencing range for voluntary manslaughter, robbery, aggravated malicious wounding, malicious wounding, and any burglary of a dwelling house or statutory burglary of a dwelling house or any burglary committed while armed with a deadly weapon or any statutory burglary committed while armed with a deadly weapon shall be further increased by (i) 100 percent in cases in which the defendant has no previous conviction of a violent felony offense, (ii) 300 percent in cases in which the defendant has previously been convicted of a violent felony offense punishable by a maximum term of imprisonment of less than 40 years, or (iii) 500 percent in cases in which the defendant has previously been convicted of a violent felony offense punishable by a maximum term of imprisonment of 40 years or more;

3. The midpoint of the initial recommended sentencing range for manufacturing, selling, giving, or distributing, or possessing with the intent to manufacture, sell, give, or distribute a Schedule I or II controlled substance, shall be increased by (i) 200 percent in cases in which the defendant has previously been convicted of a violent felony offense punishable by a maximum punishment of less than 40 years or (ii) 400 percent in cases in which the defendant has previously been convicted of a violent felony offense punishable by a maximum term of imprisonment of 40 years or more; and

4. The midpoint of the initial recommended sentencing range for felony offenses not specified in subdivision 1, 2, or 3 shall be increased by 100 percent in cases in which the defendant has previously been convicted of a violent felony offense punishable by a maximum punishment of less than 40 years and by 300 percent in cases in which the defendant has previously been convicted of a violent felony offense punishable by a maximum term of imprisonment of 40 years or more.

B. For purposes of this chapter, previous convictions shall include prior adult convictions and juvenile convictions and adjudications of delinquency based on an offense which would have been at the time of conviction a felony if committed by an adult under the laws of any state, the District of Columbia, or the United States or its territories.

C. For purposes of this chapter, violent felony offenses shall include any felony violation of § 16.1-253.2; solicitation to commit murder under § 18.2-29; any violation of § 18.2-31, 18.2-32, 18.2-32.1, 18.2-32.2, 18.2-33, or 18.2-35; any violation of subsection B of § 18.2-36.1; any violation of § 18.2-40 or 18.2-41; any violation of clause (c)(i) or (ii) of subsection B of § 18.2-46.3; any violation of § 18.2-46.5, 18.2-46.6, or 18.2-46.7; any Class 5 felony violation of § 18.2-47; any felony violation of § 18.2-48, 18.2-48.1, or 18.2-49; any violation of § 18.2-51, 18.2-51.1, 18.2-51.2, 18.2-51.3, 18.2-51.4, 18.2-51.6, 18.2-52, 18.2-52.1, 18.2-53,

59 18.2-53.1, 18.2-54.1, 18.2-54.2, or 18.2-55; any violation of subsection B of § 18.2-57; any felony violation
60 of § 18.2-57.2; any violation of § 18.2-58 or 18.2-58.1; any felony violation of § 18.2-60.1, 18.2-60.3, or
61 18.2-60.4; any violation of § 18.2-61, 18.2-64.1, 18.2-67.1, 18.2-67.2, former § 18.2-67.2:1, 18.2-67.3,
62 18.2-67.5, or 18.2-67.5:1 involving a third conviction of either sexual battery in violation of § 18.2-67.4 or
63 attempted sexual battery in violation of subsection C of § 18.2-67.5; any Class 4 felony violation of § 18.2-63
64 ; any violation of subsection A of § 18.2-67.4:1; any violation of subsection A of § 18.2-77; any Class 3
65 felony violation of § 18.2-79; any Class 3 felony violation of § 18.2-80; any violation of § 18.2-85, 18.2-89,
66 18.2-90, 18.2-91, 18.2-92, or 18.2-93; any felony violation of § 18.2-152.7; any Class 4 felony violation of §
67 18.2-153; any Class 4 felony violation of § 18.2-154; any Class 4 felony violation of § 18.2-155; any felony
68 violation of § 18.2-162; any violation of § 18.2-279 involving an occupied dwelling; any felony violation of
69 subsection A or B of § 18.2-280; any violation of § 18.2-281; any felony violation of subsection A of §
70 18.2-282; any felony violation of § 18.2-282.1; any violation of § 18.2-286.1, 18.2-287.2, 18.2-289, or
71 18.2-290; any violation of subsection A of § 18.2-300; any felony violation of subsection C of § 18.2-308.1
72 or § 18.2-308.2; any violation of § 18.2-308.2:1 or subsection M or N of § 18.2-308.2:2; any violation of §
73 18.2-308.3 or 18.2-312; any former felony violation of § 18.2-346; any felony violation of § 18.2-346.01,
74 18.2-348, or 18.2-349; any violation of § 18.2-355, 18.2-356, 18.2-357, or 18.2-357.1; any violation of
75 former § 18.2-358; any violation of subsection B of § 18.2-361; any violation of subsection B of § 18.2-366;
76 any violation of § 18.2-368, 18.2-370, or 18.2-370.1; any violation of subsection A of § 18.2-371.1; any
77 felony violation of § 18.2-369 resulting in serious bodily injury or disease; any violation of § 18.2-374.1; any
78 felony violation of § 18.2-374.1:1; any *felony* violation of § 18.2-374.3 or 18.2-374.4; any second or
79 subsequent offense under §§ 18.2-379 and 18.2-381; any felony violation of § 18.2-405 or 18.2-406; any
80 violation of § 18.2-408, 18.2-413, 18.2-414, 18.2-423, 18.2-423.01, 18.2-423.1, 18.2-423.2, or 18.2-433.2;
81 any felony violation of § 18.2-460, 18.2-474.1, or 18.2-477.1; any violation of § 18.2-477, 18.2-478,
82 18.2-480, 18.2-481, or 18.2-485; any violation of § 37.2-917; any violation of § 52-48; any violation of §
83 53.1-203; any conspiracy or attempt to commit any offense specified in this subsection, or any substantially
84 similar offense under the laws of any state, the District of Columbia, or the United States or its territories.

85 **§ 18.2-374.3. Use of communications systems to facilitate certain offenses involving children;**
86 **penalties.**

87 A. As used in ~~subsections C, D, and E~~ *this section*, "use a communications system" means making
88 personal contact or direct contact through any agent or agency, any print medium, the United States mail, any
89 common carrier or communication common carrier, any electronic communications system, the Internet, or
90 any telecommunications, wire, computer network, or radio communications system.

91 B. It is unlawful for any person to use a communications system, including ~~but not limited to~~ computers or
92 computer networks or bulletin boards, or any other electronic means for the purposes of procuring or
93 promoting the use of a minor for any activity in violation of § 18.2-370 or 18.2-374.1. A violation of this
94 subsection is a Class 6 felony.

95 C. It is unlawful for any person 18 years of age or older to use a communications system, including ~~but~~
96 ~~not limited to~~ computers or computer networks or bulletin boards, or any other electronic means, for the
97 purposes of soliciting, with lascivious intent, any person he knows or has reason to believe is a child younger
98 than 15 years of age to knowingly and intentionally:

- 99 1. Expose his sexual or genital parts to any child to whom he is not legally married or propose that any
100 such child expose his sexual or genital parts to such person;
- 101 2. Propose that any such child feel or fondle his own sexual or genital parts or the sexual or genital parts
102 of such person or propose that such person feel or fondle the sexual or genital parts of any such child;
- 103 3. Propose to such child the performance of an act of sexual intercourse, anal intercourse, cunnilingus,
104 fellatio, or anilingus or any act constituting an offense under § 18.2-361; or
- 105 4. Entice, allure, persuade, or invite any such child to enter any vehicle, room, house, or other place, for
106 any purposes set forth in the preceding subdivisions.

107 Any person who violates this subsection is guilty of a Class 5 felony. However, if the person is at least
108 seven years older than the child he knows or has reason to believe is less than 15 years of age, the person
109 shall be punished by a term of imprisonment of not less than five years nor more than 30 years in a state
110 correctional facility, five years of which shall be mandatory minimum term of imprisonment. Any person
111 who commits a second or subsequent violation of this subsection when the person is at least seven years older
112 than the child he knows or has reason to believe is less than 15 years of age shall be punished by a term of
113 imprisonment of not less than 10 years nor more than 40 years, 10 years of which shall be a mandatory
114 minimum term of imprisonment.

115 D. Any person who uses a communications system, including ~~but not limited to~~ computers or computer
116 networks or bulletin boards, or any other electronic means, for the purposes of soliciting, with lascivious
117 intent, any child he knows or has reason to believe is at least 15 years of age but younger than 18 years of age
118 to knowingly and intentionally commit any of the activities listed in subsection C if the person is at least
119 seven years older than the child is guilty of a Class 5 felony. Any person who commits a second or

120 subsequent violation of this subsection shall be punished by a term of imprisonment of not less than one nor
121 more than 20 years, one year of which shall be a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment.

122 *D1. Any person 18 years of age or older who uses a communications system, including computers or*
123 *computer networks or bulletin boards, or any other electronic means, with lascivious intent, to expose his*
124 *sexual or genital parts to any person he knows or has reason to know is a child to whom he is not legally*
125 *married if the person is at least four years older than the child is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.*

126 E. Any person 18 years of age or older who uses a communications system, including ~~but not limited to~~
127 computers or computer networks or bulletin boards, or any other electronic means, for the purposes of
128 soliciting any person he knows or has reason to believe is a child younger than 18 years of age for (i) any
129 activity in violation of § 18.2-355 or 18.2-361, (ii) any activity in violation of § 18.2-374.1, or (iii) a violation
130 of § 18.2-374.1:1 is guilty of a Class 5 felony.

INTRODUCED

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