

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2021-027

1  
2 State of Arkansas  
3 93rd General Assembly  
4 Regular Session, 2021

**A Bill**

HOUSE BILL 1951

5  
6 By: Representative Crawford

7 Filed with: House Committee on Judiciary  
8 pursuant to A.C.A. §10-3-217.

**For An Act To Be Entitled**

9  
10 AN ACT TO AMEND THE CRIMINAL OFFENSE OF SEXUAL  
11 INDECENCY WITH A CHILD; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

12  
13  
14 **Subtitle**

15 TO AMEND THE CRIMINAL OFFENSE OF SEXUAL  
16 INDECENCY WITH A CHILD.

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18  
19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 5-1-109(a)(1)(E), concerning the statute of  
22 limitations for the offense of sexual indecency with a child, is amended to  
23 read as follows:

24 (E) Sexual indecency with a child, § 5-14-110, if a felony  
25 offense;

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27 SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 5-4-703(a)(8), concerning an additional  
28 fine for an offense committed against a child or in the presence of a child,  
29 is amended to read as follows:

30 (8) Sexual indecency with a child, § 5-14-110, if the offense is  
31 a felony or Class A misdemeanor, indecent exposure, § 5-14-112, sexual  
32 assault in the third degree, § 5-14-126, or sexual assault in the fourth  
33 degree, § 5-14-127;

1           SECTION 3. Arkansas Code § 5-13-210(f), concerning the offense of  
2 introduction of a controlled substance into the body of another person, is  
3 amended to read as follows:

4           (f) Notwithstanding a provision of subsection (c) of this section, any  
5 person is guilty of a Class Y felony who violates this section by introducing  
6 a controlled substance into the body of another person without that other  
7 person's knowledge or consent with the purpose of:

8                   (1) Committing any felony sexual offense, as defined in Arkansas  
9 law;

10                   (2) Engaging in any unlawful sexual act, as defined in § 5-14-  
11 101 et seq., except for a misdemeanor violation of sexual indecency with a  
12 child, § 5-14-110;

13                   (3) Engaging in any unlawful sexual contact, as defined in § 5-  
14 14-101; or

15                   (4) Engaging in any act involving a child engaging in sexually  
16 explicit conduct, as defined in § 5-27-302.

17  
18           SECTION 4. Arkansas Code § 5-14-110 is amended to read as follows:  
19 5-14-110. Sexual indecency with a child - Definitions.

20           (a) A person commits sexual indecency with a child if:

21                   (1) Being eighteen (18) years of age or older, the person  
22 solicits another person who is less than fifteen (15) years of age or who is  
23 represented to be less than fifteen (15) years of age to engage in:

24                           (A) Sexual intercourse;

25                           (B) Deviate sexual activity; or

26                           (C) Sexual contact;

27                   (2)(A) With the purpose to arouse or gratify a sexual desire of  
28 himself or herself or a sexual desire of another person, the person purposely  
29 exposes his or her sex organs to another person who is less than fifteen (15)  
30 years of age.

31                           (B) It is an affirmative defense to a prosecution under  
32 subdivision (a)(2)(A) of this section if the person is within three (3) years  
33 of age of the victim;

34                   (3) With the purpose to arouse or gratify a sexual desire of  
35 himself or herself or a sexual desire of another person, the person purposely  
36 exposes his or her sex organs to a minor, and the actor is:

1 (A) Employed with the Division of Correction, Division of  
2 Community Correction, any city or county jail, or any juvenile detention  
3 facility, and the minor is in custody at a facility operated by the agency or  
4 contractor employing the actor;

5 (B) A mandated reporter under § 12-18-402(b) and is in a  
6 position of trust or authority over the minor; or

7 (C) The minor's parent or guardian, an employee in the  
8 minor's school or school district, a temporary caretaker, or a person in a  
9 position of trust and authority over the minor;

10 (4) With the purpose to arouse or gratify his or her sexual  
11 desire or a sexual desire of another person, the person, being eighteen (18)  
12 years of age or older, causes or coerces a minor to expose his or her sex  
13 organs to the actor or another person, and the actor is:

14 (A) Employed with the Division of Correction, the Division  
15 of Community Correction, any city or county jail, or any juvenile detention  
16 facility, and the minor is in custody at a facility operated by the agency or  
17 contractor employing the actor;

18 (B) Employed by or contracted with the Division of  
19 Community Correction, a local law enforcement agency, a court, or a local  
20 government and the actor is supervising the minor while the minor is on  
21 probation or parole or for any other court-ordered reason;

22 (C) A mandated reporter under § 12-18-402(b) and is in a  
23 position of trust or authority over the minor; or

24 (D) The minor's parent or guardian, an employee in the  
25 minor's school or school district, a temporary caretaker, or a person in a  
26 position of trust or authority over the minor; ~~or~~

27 (5) Being eighteen (18) years of age or older, the person causes  
28 or coerces another person who is less than fourteen (14) years of age to  
29 expose his or her sex organs or the breast of a female with the purpose to  
30 arouse or gratify a sexual desire of the actor or another person; or

31 (6) Being eighteen (18) years of age or older, the person  
32 knowingly exposes his or her sex organs to a minor of the opposite gender in  
33 a public changing facility; or

34 (7)(A) Being eighteen (18) years of age or older, the person  
35 enters into or remains in a public changing facility that is assigned to

1 persons of the opposite gender while knowing a minor of the opposite gender  
2 is present in the public changing facility.

3 (B) Subdivision (7)(A) of this section does not apply to a  
4 person entering into or remaining in a public changing facility:

5 (i) With a minor under seven (7) years of age and  
6 the person is the minor's parent, guardian, family member, or is otherwise  
7 authorized to care for the minor;

8 (ii) For maintenance or inspection purposes if the  
9 person is authorized to conduct maintenance or inspection of the public  
10 changing facility;

11 (iii) To render medical assistance;

12 (iv) To accompany a person needing assistance when  
13 the actor is the parent, guardian, family member, or is otherwise authorized  
14 to care for the person needing assistance;

15 (v) To receive assistance in using the public  
16 changing facility;

17 (vi) If the public changing facility has been  
18 temporarily designated for use by persons of the same gender as the person;  
19 or

20 (vii) Who is a certified law enforcement or  
21 corrections officer accompanying a person of the opposite gender in his or  
22 her custody.

23 (b) Sexual indecency with a child is a:

24 (1) Class D felony under subdivisions (a)(1)-(5) of this  
25 section;

26 (2) Class A misdemeanor under subdivision (a)(6) of this  
27 section; and

28 (3) Class C misdemeanor under subdivision (a)(7) of this  
29 section.

30 (c) As used in this section:

31 (1) "Gender" means the physical condition of a person as being  
32 male or female that was stated on the person's birth certificate at the time  
33 the person was born; and

34 (2)(A) "Public changing facility" means a public or private  
35 facility that is held out as open to the public and designed to be used at a

1 time during which a person may be in a state of undress in the presence of  
2 other persons.

3 (B) "Public changing facility" includes without limitation  
4 a restroom, bathroom, locker room, or shower room.

5 (C) "Public changing facility" does not include a private  
6 dressing area open to the public that is designed for changing into and out  
7 of clothing that is for sale in a commercial establishment that engages in  
8 the sale of clothing.

9

10 SECTION 5. Arkansas Code § 5-14-201 is amended to read as follows:

11 5-14-201. Definitions.

12 As used in this subchapter:

13 (1) "Relevant medical record" means a medical record of a person  
14 charged with having committed a sex crime that contains information that may  
15 reveal a health risk to the victim; and

16 (2) "Sex crime" means any offense described in § 5-14-101 et  
17 seq., except for a misdemeanor violation of sexual indecency with a child, §  
18 5-14-110, or § 5-70-101 et seq.

19

20 SECTION 6. Arkansas Code § 6-17-116 is amended to read as follows:

21 6-17-116. The Arkansas School Children Protection Act – Definitions.

22 (a) This section shall be known and may be cited as "The Arkansas  
23 School Children Protection Act".

24 (b) For purposes of this section:

25 (1) "Conviction" means having pleaded guilty or nolo contendere  
26 to or having been found guilty of committing a sexual offense against a minor  
27 or student; and

28 (2) A "sexual offense" is one described in § 5-14-101 et seq.,  
29 except for a misdemeanor violation of sexual indecency with a child, § 5-14-  
30 110.

31 (c)(1) Any public school district employee who commits a sexual  
32 offense against a minor shall upon conviction be dismissed from employment  
33 and shall not thereafter be eligible for employment by any school in this  
34 state.

1           (2) Any public school teacher who commits a sexual offense under  
2 § 5-14-125(a)(6) shall upon conviction be dismissed from employment and shall  
3 not thereafter be eligible for employment by any school in this state.  
4

5           SECTION 7. Arkansas Code § 6-17-410(c)(14), concerning a disqualifying  
6 offense for licensure to be a teacher, is amended to read as follows:

7           (14) Sexual indecency with a child as prohibited in § 5-14-110,  
8 if a felony offense;  
9

10          SECTION 8. Arkansas Code § 6-17-414(b)(15), concerning a disqualifying  
11 offense for employment of nonlicense personnel of an educational entity, is  
12 amended to read as follows:

13          (15) Sexual indecency with a child as prohibited in § 5-14-110,  
14 if a felony offense;  
15

16          SECTION 9. Arkansas Code § 9-28-409(e)(3)(Z)(Z), concerning criminal  
17 record and maltreatment checks under the Child Welfare Agency Licensing Act,  
18 is amended to read as follows:

19          (Z)(Z) Sexual offenses, § 5-14-101 et seq., except for a  
20 misdemeanor violation of sexual indecency with a child, § 5-14-110;  
21

22          SECTION 10. Arkansas Code § 12-12-104(f)(2)(B), concerning the  
23 definition of "sex offense" as used in the retention and disposition of  
24 physical evidence in sex offense prosecutions, is amended to read as follows:

25          (B) Sexual indecency with a child, § 5-14-110, if a felony  
26 offense;  
27

28          SECTION 11. Arkansas Code § 12-12-401(8), as amended by Acts 2021, No.  
29 472, concerning the definition of "victim", is amended to read as follows:

30          (8) "Victim" means any person who has been a victim of any  
31 alleged sexual assault or incest as defined by § 5-14-101 et seq., except for  
32 a misdemeanor violation of sexual indecency with a child, § 5-14-110, and §  
33 5-26-202.  
34

1 SECTION 12. Arkansas Code § 12-12-903(12)(A)(i)(b), concerning the  
2 definition of "sex offense" under the Sex Offender Registration Act of 1997,  
3 is amended to read as follows:

4 (b) Sexual indecency with a child, § 5-14-110, if a  
5 felony offense;

6  
7 SECTION 13. Arkansas Code § 12-12-1103(9), concerning the definition  
8 of "qualifying offense" under the State Convicted Offender DNA Data Base Act,  
9 is amended to read as follows:

10 (9)(A) "Qualifying offense" means any felony offense as defined  
11 in the Arkansas Criminal Code or a sexual offense classified as a misdemeanor  
12 as defined by the Arkansas Criminal Code or a repeat offense as defined in  
13 this section; ~~and.~~

14 (B) "Qualifying offense" does not include a misdemeanor  
15 violation of sexual indecency with a child, § 5-14-110; and

16  
17 SECTION 14. Arkansas Code § 16-42-101(b), concerning the admissibility  
18 of evidence of a victim's prior sexual past, is amended to read as follows:

19 (b) In any criminal prosecution under § 5-14-101 et seq., the Human  
20 Trafficking Act of 2013, § 5-18-101 et seq., except for a misdemeanor  
21 violation of sexual indecency with a child, § 5-14-110, or § 5-26-202, or for  
22 criminal attempt to commit, criminal solicitation to commit, or criminal  
23 conspiracy to commit an offense defined in any of those sections, opinion  
24 evidence, reputation evidence, or evidence of specific instances of the  
25 victim's prior sexual conduct with the defendant or any other person,  
26 evidence of a victim's prior allegations of sexual conduct with the defendant  
27 or any other person, evidence of a person's prior sexual conduct when the  
28 person was a victim of human trafficking, which allegations the victim  
29 asserts to be true, or evidence offered by the defendant concerning prior  
30 allegations of sexual conduct by the victim with the defendant or any other  
31 person if the victim denies making the allegations is not admissible by the  
32 defendant, either through direct examination of any defense witness or  
33 through cross-examination of the victim or other prosecution witness, to  
34 attack the credibility of the victim, to prove consent or any other defense,  
35 or for any other purpose.

36

1 SECTION 15. Arkansas Code § 16-82-101(b)(1), concerning the testing  
2 for human immunodeficiency virus for a conviction of a sexual offense, is  
3 amended to read as follows:

4 (b)(1) Any person arrested and charged with violating §§ 5-14-103, and  
5 5-14-110, if a felony offense, and §§ 5-14-124 – 5-14-127, 5-26-202, and 5-  
6 70-102 may be required by the court having jurisdiction of the criminal  
7 prosecution, upon a finding of reasonable cause to believe that the person  
8 committed the offense and subject to constitutional limitations, to be tested  
9 for the presence of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or any antibody to  
10 human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) unless the court determines that testing  
11 the defendant would be inappropriate and documents the reasons for that  
12 determination in the court record.

13  
14 SECTION 16. Arkansas Code § 16-90-1101(6)(B), concerning the  
15 definition of "sex offense" in conjunction with the rights of crime victims,  
16 is amended to read as follows:

17 (B) Sexual indecency with a child, § 5-14-110, if a felony  
18 offense;

19  
20 SECTION 17. Arkansas Code § 16-93-305, as amended by Acts 2021, No.  
21 499, is amended to read as follows:

22 16-93-305. Probation – Sex offender may not reside with minor victim.

23 (a) If a person enters a plea of guilty or nolo contendere to or is  
24 found guilty of a sexual offense under § 5-14-101 et seq., except for a  
25 misdemeanor violation of sexual indecency with a child, § 5-14-110, or  
26 incest, § 5-26-202, perpetrated against a minor and is otherwise eligible for  
27 probation, the person is prohibited as a condition of his or her probation  
28 from residing in a residence with any minor unless the court makes a specific  
29 finding that the person poses no danger to a minor residing in the residence.

30 (b) Upon violation of this condition of probation, the court may enter  
31 an adjudication of guilt and proceed as otherwise provided by law.

32  
33 SECTION 18. Arkansas Code § 16-93-314(b)(2)(A), concerning the  
34 discharge of probation, is amended to read as follows:



1 (A) The person applying for discharge has been convicted  
2 of a sexual offense as defined by § 5-14-101 et seq., except for a  
3 misdemeanor violation of sexual indecency with a child, § 5-14-110; and  
4

5 SECTION 19. Arkansas Code § 17-3-102(a)(16), concerning licensing  
6 restrictions based on criminal records, is amended to read as follows:

7 (16) Sexual indecency with a child as prohibited in § 5-14-110,  
8 if a felony offense.  
9

10 SECTION 20. Arkansas Code § 17-14-203(12)(C)(i)(i), effective January  
11 1, 2017, and concerning background checks for appraisers, is amended to read  
12 as follows:

13 (i) A sexually related crime or act under § 5-  
14 14-101 et seq., except for a misdemeanor violation of sexual indecency with a  
15 child, § 5-14-110;  
16

17 SECTION 21. Arkansas Code § 17-17-312(f)(16), concerning a  
18 disqualifying offense for licensure for auctioneers, is amended to read as  
19 follows:

20 (16) Sexual indecency with a child, as prohibited in § 5-  
21 14-110, if a felony offense;  
22

23 SECTION 22. Arkansas Code § 18-16-112(a)(4)(A)(ii), concerning the  
24 definition of "sex crime" concerning landlord and tenant law and protections  
25 for victims of domestic abuse, is amended to read as follows:

26 (ii) Sexual indecency with a child, § 5-14-110, if a  
27 felony offense;  
28

29 SECTION 23. Arkansas Code § 20-13-1106(a)(1)(0), concerning a  
30 disqualifying offense for the Division of EMS and Trauma Systems of the  
31 Department of Health, is amended to read as follows:

32 (0) Sexual indecency with a child as prohibited in § 5-14-  
33 110, if a felony offense;  
34

1 SECTION 24. Arkansas Code § 20-38-105(b)(16), concerning  
 2 disqualification from employment in certain health related professions, is  
 3 amended to read as follows:

4 (16) Any sexual offense, § 5-14-101 et seq., except for a  
 5 misdemeanor violation of sexual indecency with a child, § 5-14-110;  
 6

7 SECTION 25. Arkansas Code § 21-15-102(f)(15), concerning a  
 8 disqualifying offense for employment with a state agency in a position  
 9 involving direct contact with children and with individuals with mental  
 10 illnesses or developmental disabilities, is amended to read as follows:

11 (15) Sexual indecency with a child, as prohibited in § 5-14-110,  
 12 if a felony offense;  
 13

14 SECTION 26. Arkansas Code § 21-15-103(g)(15), concerning a  
 15 disqualifying offense for employment as a public officer or employee, is  
 16 amended to read as follows:

17 (15) Sexual indecency with a child, as prohibited in § 5-14-110,  
 18 if a felony offense;  
 19

20 SECTION 27. Arkansas Code § 21-15-104(c)(8), concerning the waiver of  
 21 exclusion or discharge requirement for persons in designated positions, is  
 22 amended to read as follows:

23 (8) Sexual indecency with a child, § 5-14-110, if a felony  
 24 offense;  
 25

26 SECTION 28. Arkansas Code § 25-1-112 is amended to read as follows:

27 25-1-112. Sexual offenses screened in criminal background checks.

28 Whenever a criminal background check is performed on a person under the  
 29 provisions of any criminal background check requirement contained in this  
 30 Code for employment, licensure, or any other purpose, the person may be  
 31 disqualified for employment, licensure, or any other purpose for which the  
 32 background check was conducted if it is determined that the person committed  
 33 a violation of any sexual offense formerly proscribed under §§ 5-14-101 – 5-  
 34 14-103, §§ 5-14-104 – 5-14-109 [repealed], § 5-14-110, if a felony offense,  
 35 5-14-111 – and 5-14-112, 5-14-113 – 5-14-119 [reserved], §§ 5-14-120 – 5-14-  
 36 121 [repealed], and § 5-14-122 – 5-14-127, that is substantially equivalent

1 to any sexual offense presently listed in §§ 5-14-101 – 5-14-103, §§ 5-14-104  
2 – 5-14-109 [repealed], § 5-14-110, if a felony offense, §§ 5-14-111 – and 5-  
3 14-112, 5-14-113 – 5-14-119 [reserved], § 5-14-120 – 5-14-121 [repealed], and  
4 5-14-122 – 5-14-127, and is an offense screened for in a criminal background  
5 check.

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8 Referred requested by the Arkansas House of Representatives

9 Prepared by: MBM/KFW

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