

1 State of Arkansas  
2 94th General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2023  
4

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1151

5 By: Representative Vaught  
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## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING SEXUALLY GROOMING  
9 A CHILD; TO AMEND THE MAXIMUM AGE FOR A VICTIM FOR  
10 THE OFFENSE OF SEXUALLY GROOMING A CHILD; TO INCREASE  
11 THE PENALTY FOR SEXUALLY GROOMING A CHILD; AND FOR  
12 OTHER PURPOSES.  
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## Subtitle

15 TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING SEXUALLY  
16 GROOMING A CHILD; TO AMEND THE MAXIMUM  
17 AGE FOR A VICTIM FOR THE OFFENSE OF  
18 SEXUALLY GROOMING A CHILD; AND TO  
19 INCREASE THE PENALTY FOR SEXUALLY  
20 GROOMING A CHILD.  
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24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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26 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 5-27-307(b) and (c), concerning sexually  
27 grooming a child, are amended to read as follows:

28 (b) A person commits sexually grooming a child if he or she knowingly;  
29 ~~disseminates~~

30 (1) Disseminates to a child ~~thirteen (13)~~ sixteen (16) years of  
31 age or younger with or without consideration a visual or print medium  
32 depicting sexually explicit conduct with the purpose to entice, induce, or  
33 groom the child ~~thirteen (13)~~ sixteen (16) years of age or younger to engage  
34 in the following with a person:

- 35 ~~(1)(A)~~ Sexual intercourse;
- 36 ~~(2)(B)~~ Sexually explicit conduct; or



1                   ~~(3)~~(C) Deviate sexual activity; or  
 2                   (2) Offers, gives, or agrees to give money, anything of value,  
 3 or any other benefit to a child sixteen (16) years of age or younger with the  
 4 purpose to induce the child sixteen (16) years of age or younger not to  
 5 disclose information regarding any of the following that the person has  
 6 committed against the child sixteen (16) years of age or younger:

- 7                   (A) An offense under § 5-14-101 et seq.;
- 8                   (B) An offense under the Human Trafficking Act of 2013, §  
 9 5-18-101 et seq.;
- 10                  (C) An offense under this subchapter;
- 11                  (D) An offense under § 5-27-401 et seq.; or
- 12                  (E) An offense under § 5-27-601 et seq.

13           (c)(1) Sexually grooming a child under subdivision (b)(1) of this  
 14 section is a:

15                   ~~(1)~~(A) Class ~~D~~ B felony if the actor is twenty-one (21)  
 16 years of age or older; or

17                   ~~(2)~~(B) Class A misdemeanor if the actor is younger than  
 18 twenty-one (21) years of age.

19           (2) Sexually grooming a child under subdivision (b)(2) of this  
 20 section is a:

21                   (A) Class C felony if the actor is twenty-one (21) years  
 22 of age or older; or

23                   (B) Class A misdemeanor if the actor is younger than  
 24 twenty-one (21) years of age.

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 26           SECTION 2. Arkansas Code § 5-27-307(e), concerning sexually grooming a  
 27 child, is amended to read as follows:

28           (e) It is not a defense to prosecution under this section that the  
 29 actor does not know the age of the child or believes the child is ~~fourteen~~  
 30 ~~(14)~~ seventeen (17) years of age or older.

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