

**As Introduced**

**132nd General Assembly**

**Regular Session**

**2017-2018**

**H. B. No. 355**

**Representatives Hill, Rezabek**

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**A BILL**

To enact section 2907.324 of the Revised Code to  
generally prohibit sexting by a person under 21  
years of age.

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**BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:**

**Section 1.** That section 2907.324 of the Revised Code be  
enacted to read as follows:

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**Sec. 2907.324.** (A) (1) As used in this section:

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(a) "Sex-related offense" means a violation of this  
section, a violation of any other prohibition set forth in this  
chapter, or a violation of any ordinance of a municipal  
corporation that is substantially equivalent to a violation of  
this section or of any other prohibition set forth in this  
chapter.

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(b) "Sexually explicit digital material" means any  
photograph or other visual depiction of a minor who is in any  
condition of nudity or is involved in any sexual activity  
prohibited under this chapter.

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(c) "Telecommunications device" has the same meaning as in  
section 2913.01 of the Revised Code.

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(2) The distribution of sexually explicit digital material 19  
by a person under twenty-one years of age may commonly be 20  
referred to as "sexting." 21

(B) No person under twenty-one years of age shall 22  
purposely create, produce, distribute, present, transmit, post, 23  
exchange, disseminate, or possess through a telecommunications 24  
device any sexually explicit digital material. 25

(C) (1) Each municipal court, county court, juvenile court, 26  
and court of common pleas shall have a sexting educational 27  
diversion program or another diversionary-type program that is 28  
feasible for persons charged with a violation of division (B) of 29  
this section. To comply with this requirement, the court may 30  
develop and operate the program, may utilize a program developed 31  
by another court or by a prosecutor's office, or may utilize 32  
another program that is relevant and appropriate for the 33  
purposes described in this section. The court shall adopt 34  
procedural rules for operation of the program. After a court 35  
begins operation or utilization of a sexting educational 36  
diversion program or another diversionary-type program under 37  
this division, except as otherwise provided in this division, 38  
the court may allow any person who is charged with a violation 39  
of division (B) of this section to enter the program, as an 40  
alternative to prosecution of the person for the violation. A 41  
court may not allow a person who is charged with a violation of 42  
division (B) of this section to enter the program as an 43  
alternative to prosecution of the person for the violation if 44  
the person previously has been convicted of, pleaded guilty to, 45  
or been adjudicated a delinquent child for committing a sex- 46  
related offense. 47

(2) Each sexting educational diversion program or other 48

diversionary-type program a court operates or utilizes under 49  
division (C) (1) of this section shall address all of the 50  
following issues and topics: 51

(a) The legal consequences of and penalties for sharing 52  
sexually explicit digital materials, including a review of 53  
applicable federal and state statutes; 54

(b) The nonlegal consequences of sharing sexually explicit 55  
digital materials, including the effect on relationships, the 56  
possible loss of educational and employment opportunities, and 57  
the possibility of being barred or removed from school programs 58  
and extracurricular activities; 59

(c) How the unique characteristics of cyberspace and the 60  
internet, including searchability, replicability, and an 61  
infinite audience, can produce long-term and unforeseen 62  
consequences for sharing sexually explicit digital materials; 63

(d) The connection between bullying and cyber-bullying and 64  
the sharing of sexually explicit digital materials; 65

(e) All other topics that the court that develops the 66  
program considers to be relevant. 67

(3) A person charged with a violation of division (B) of 68  
this section who enters a sexting educational diversion program 69  
or another diversionary-type program under division (C) (1) of 70  
this section shall do all of the following: 71

(a) Waive, in writing and contingent upon the person's 72  
successful completion of the program, all of the following that 73  
are relevant and applicable to the charge and the person: 74

(i) If the person is charged in a municipal court, county 75  
court, or court of common pleas, the person's right to a speedy 76

trial, the preliminary hearing, the time period within which the 77  
grand jury may consider an indictment against the person, and 78  
arraignment that are relevant and applicable to the charge and 79  
the person, unless the hearing, indictment, or arraignment has 80  
already occurred; 81

(ii) If the person is charged in juvenile court, the 82  
procedures comparable to those described in division (C) (3) (a) 83  
of this section that are applicable in juvenile court and that 84  
are relevant and applicable to the charge and the person, unless 85  
the particular procedure has already occurred. 86

(b) Agree, in writing, to the tolling while in the program 87  
of all periods of limitation established by statutes or rules of 88  
court that are applicable to the violation of division (B) of 89  
this section and to the conditions of the program established by 90  
the court. 91

(4) If a person charged with a violation of division (B) 92  
of this section who enters a sexting educational diversion 93  
program or another diversionary-type program under division (C) 94  
(1) of this section satisfactorily completes the program, the 95  
court shall dismiss the charges against the person. 96

If a person charged with a violation of division (B) of 97  
this section is offered an opportunity to enter a sexting 98  
educational diversion program or another diversionary-type 99  
program under division (C) (1) of this section and chooses not to 100  
enter the program, or if a person charged with such a violation 101  
enters such a program and violates the conditions of the 102  
program, the person may be brought to trial or before the 103  
juvenile court, whichever is applicable, upon the charges in the 104  
manner provided by law, and, regarding a person who violates the 105  
conditions of the program, the waiver executed pursuant to 106

division (C) (3) of this section is void on the date the person 107  
is removed from the program for the violation. 108

(D) (1) Whoever violates division (B) of this section is 109  
guilty of possession of sexually explicit digital material. 110  
Possession of sexually explicit material is a misdemeanor of the 111  
first degree and division (D) (2) of this section applies. 112

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this division, if an 113  
offender is convicted of, pleads guilty to, or is adjudicated a 114  
delinquent child for committing possession of sexually explicit 115  
material, the court shall sentence the offender to eight hours 116  
of community service under section 2929.17 or 2929.27 of the 117  
Revised Code or, if the court is a juvenile court, the juvenile 118  
court shall impose upon the delinquent child an order of 119  
disposition of eight hours of community service under section 120  
2152.19 of the Revised Code. A court is not required to sentence 121  
an offender to community service or impose on a delinquent child 122  
an order of disposition of community service under this division 123  
if it determines that the interests of justice and public 124  
safety, or with respect to a delinquent child, the well being of 125  
the child, require a different sentence or order of disposition. 126

(E) Division (B) of this section does not apply to any of 127  
the following: 128

(1) The creation, production, or possession by a person 129  
under twenty-one years of age of sexually explicit digital 130  
material depicting the person's self or the person's spouse, if 131  
the person does not subsequently distribute, present, transmit, 132  
post, print, disseminate, or exchange that material; 133

(2) The creation, production, or possession by a person 134  
under twenty-one years of age of sexually explicit digital 135

material depicting the person's child; 136

(3) The distribution, presentation, transmission, posting, 137  
exchanging, or dissemination by a person under twenty-one years 138  
of age of sexually explicit digital material depicting the 139  
person's child if the material is distributed, presented, 140  
transmitted, posted, exchanged, or disseminated for a bona fide 141  
purpose of a type described in division (A) (3) (a) of section 142  
2907.323 of the Revised Code, by or to a person in any category 143  
described in that division having a proper interest in the 144  
material; 145

(4) The creation, production, distribution, presentation, 146  
transmission, posting, exchanging, or dissemination by a person 147  
under twenty-one years of age of sexually explicit digital 148  
material depicting a child other than the person's child if both 149  
of the following apply: 150

(a) The material is created, produced, distributed, 151  
presented, transmitted, posted, exchanged, or disseminated for a 152  
bona fide purpose of a type described in division (A) (3) (a) of 153  
section 2907.323 of the Revised Code, by or to a person in any 154  
category described in that division having a proper interest in 155  
the material. 156

(b) The child's parents, guardian, or custodian consent in 157  
writing to the depiction of the minor in the sexually explicit 158  
digital material, and to the specific manner in which the 159  
material is to be distributed, presented, transmitted, posted, 160  
exchanged, or disseminated. 161

(5) The possession by a person under twenty-one years of 162  
age of sexually explicit digital material depicting a child 163  
other than the person's child if either of the following 164

applies: 165

(a) The person is in any category described in division 166  
(A) (3) (a) of section 2907.323 of the Revised Code and the person 167  
possesses the material for a bona fide purpose of a type 168  
described in that division. 169

(b) The person knows that the child's parents, guardian, 170  
or custodian has consented in writing to the depiction of the 171  
minor in the sexually explicit digital material and to the 172  
manner in which the material is used. 173

(F) It is an affirmative defense to a charge of a 174  
violation of division (B) of this section that the person under 175  
twenty-one years of age charged with the violation did not 176  
solicit the sexually explicit digital material, did not 177  
subsequently distribute, present, transmit, post, print, 178  
disseminate, or exchange the sexually explicit digital material, 179  
and deleted or destroyed the sexually explicit digital material 180  
upon receipt of the material. 181