

Bill No.: HB0009 **Effective:** **Immediately**

LSO No.: 26LSO-0079

Enrolled Act No.: HEA No. 0012

Chapter No.: 41

Prime Sponsor: Joint Judiciary Interim Committee

Catch Title: **Grooming of children-offenses and amendments.**

Has Report: No

Subject: Creating the offense of grooming of a minor for a sexual offense.

Summary/Major Elements:

- This act creates the criminal offense of grooming of a minor for a sexual offense.
- A person commits the offense of grooming of a minor for a sexual offense if the person:
 - Is age eighteen (18) or older and not less than four (4) years older than the minor; and
 - Purposely or knowingly engages in a pattern of grooming aimed at a minor with the intent to:
 - Manipulate the minor into engaging in sexual conduct;
 - Coerce or entice the minor to meet in person to engage in sexual conduct;
 - Distribute or facilitate access to sexually explicit material; or
 - Exploit a position of authority to develop an intimate or secretive relationship with a minor.
- The act specifies different felony penalties for grooming of a minor for a sexual offense, depending on the age of the minor victim or if the actor occupies a position of authority in relation to the victim.
- In addition to felony penalties, a person who is guilty of grooming of a minor for a sexual offense must complete a sexual-offender treatment program and is subject to probation for up to ten (10) years.
- Grooming of a minor for a sexual offense is not subject to a deferral of prosecution, and a person convicted of grooming of a minor for a sexual offense must register as a sex offender.

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