

**HB0189****Harmful communication-minors.**

Sponsored By: Representative(s) Lien, Angelos, Brady, Lawley,
Lucas, Washut, Webb and Webber and Senator(s) Pearson

AN ACT relating to crimes and offenses; prohibiting adults from communicating with minors about sexual activity as specified; providing penalties; providing definitions; making conforming amendments; creating a cause of action; specifying applicability; and providing for an effective date.

1/14/2025 Bill Number Assigned
1/15/2025 H Received for Introduction
1/22/2025 H Introduced and Referred to H01 - Judiciary
1/29/2025 H01 - Judiciary:Recommend Amend and Do Pass 9-0-0-0-0

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Representative(s) Brady, Bratten, Chestek, Filer, Kelly, Lien, Singh, Washut, Webb

Ayes 9 **Nays** 0 **Excused** 0 **Absent** 0 **Conflicts** 0

1/29/2025 H Placed on General File

HB0189HS001/ADOPTED

Page 2-line 3 After "minor" insert "or purported minor".

Page 4-line 13 After "minor" insert "or purported minor".

Page 4-line 21 After "(ii)" insert "Except as provided by subsection (h) of this section,".

Page 5-line 14 After "(\$5,000.00)" insert ", or both".

Page 5-line 18 After "(\$10,000.00)" insert ", or both".

Page 5-line 23 After "(\$20,000.00)" insert ", or both".

Page 6-line 8 After "minors" insert "or purported minors".

Page 6-lines 10 through 12 Delete entirely and insert:

"(f) A minor victim, or the minor's parent or legal guardian acting on behalf of the minor, may bring a civil cause of action under this section for damages and any other relief the court deems reasonable. The ability of a parent or legal guardian to bring a civil action on behalf of the minor shall not preclude the minor from bringing an action independently upon reaching the age of majority. This civil cause of action is independent of criminal proceedings and may be brought by the minor or the minor's parent or legal guardian regardless of whether criminal charges have been filed. A civil cause of action under this section shall not be contingent upon a conviction in a criminal case.".

Page 6-after line 18 Insert:

"(h) The provisions of this section shall not apply to consensual communication between a person who is not less than eighteen (18) years of age and a minor who is not more than four (4) years younger than the person if:

(i) The communication does not involve coercion, exploitation or manipulation of the minor; and

(ii) The communication occurs within the context of a consensual dating or romantic relationship.". WASHUT, CHAIRMAN

HB0189HW001/ADOPTED

Page 6-line 16 Delete "a bona fide" and insert "any age-appropriate sex education curriculum or program at any church,"; after "university" insert ".".

Page 6-lines 17 and 18 Delete entirely. CHESTEK

HB0189HW002/ADOPTED

Page 6-after line 18 Delete the standing committee amendment (HB0189HS001/A) to this line and insert:

"(h) Nothing in this section shall require law enforcement to notify the parent or legal guardian of a minor who reports a violation or is the victim of a violation of this section, or any other connected violation of Wyoming law, if the parent or guardian is alleged to have been a party to the violation or law enforcement believes the parent or guardian will interfere with the investigation.

(j) This section shall not apply to a minor's spouse if a judge of a court of record in Wyoming has approved the marriage, the minor's parent or legal guardian has provided consent for the marriage, or the minor is emancipated, as specified in W.S. 20-1-102(b) through (d).".

To the extent required by this amendment: renumber as necessary. LIEN

2/3/2025 H COW:Passed
2/4/2025 H 2nd Reading:Passed
2/5/2025 H 3rd Reading:Passed 59-1-2-0-0

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Representative(s) Allemand, Andrew, Angelos, Banks, Bear, Brady, Bratten, Brown, G, Byron, Campbell, E, Campbell, K, Clouston, Connolly, Davis, Eklund, Erickson, Filer, Geringer, Guggenmos, Haroldson, Harshman, Heiner, Hoeft, Jarvis, Johnson, Kelly, Knapp, Larsen, Larson, Lawley, Lien, Locke, Lucas, Mccann, Neiman, Nicholas, Ottman, Pendergraft, Posey, Provenza, Rodriguez-Williams, Schmid, Sherwood, Singh, Smith, Storer, Strock, Styvar, Tarver, Thayer, Washut, Wasserburger, Webb, Webber, Wharff, Williams, Winter, Wylie, Yin

Nays: Representative Chestek

Excused: Representative(s) Brown, L, Riggins

Ayes 59 **Nays** 1 **Excused** 2 **Absent** 0 **Conflicts** 0

2/5/2025 S Received for Introduction
2/10/2025 S Introduced and Referred to S01 - Judiciary
2/12/2025 S01 - Judiciary:Recommend Amend and Do Pass 5-0-0-0-0

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Senator(s) Crago, Crum, Hicks, Kolb, Olsen

Ayes 5 **Nays** 0 **Excused** 0 **Absent** 0 **Conflicts** 0

2/12/2025 S Placed on General File

HB0189SS001/ADOPTED

(TO ENGROSSED COPY)

Page 4-line 8 After "content;" insert "or".

Page 5-line 1 Delete "(h)" and insert "(g)".

Page 5-line 16 After "years" delete "and" and insert ",".

Page 5-line 20 After "second" insert "or subsequent".

Page 5-line 21 After "years" delete "and" and insert ",".

Page 5-line 22 Delete ";" and insert ".".

Page 6-lines 1 through 4 Delete entirely and renumber as necessary.

Page 7-line 8 After "program" insert ", as well as any academic program intended to protect children from predators,".
OLSEN, CHAIRMAN

HB0189SW001/ADOPTED

(TO ENGROSSED COPY)

Page 5-lines 12 through 22 Delete entirely including the Senate standing committee amendment (HB0189SS001/AE) in these lines and insert:

"(c) A person convicted under subsection (b) of this section shall be guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than twenty (20) years, a fine of not less than five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) and not more than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00), or both." HUTCHINGS

2/21/2025 S COW:Failed 4-26-1-0-0

ROLL CALL

Ayes: Senator(s) Hutchings, Ide, McKeown, Pearson

Nays: Senator(s) Anderson, Barlow, Biteman, Boner, Brennan, Case, Crago, Crum, Dockstader, Driskill, French, Gierau, Hicks, Jones, Kolb, Landen, Laursen, Nethercott, Olsen, Pappas, Rothfuss, Salazar, Schuler, Scott, Smith, Steinmetz

Excused: Senator Cooper

Ayes 4 **Nays** 26 **Excused** 1 **Absent** 0 **Conflicts** 0