

**DRAFT ONLY
NOT APPROVED FOR
INTRODUCTION**

HOUSE BILL NO.

Grooming of children-offenses and amendments.

Sponsored by: Joint Judiciary Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to crimes and offenses; establishing the
2 criminal offense of grooming of a minor for a sexual
3 offense; specifying penalties; providing definitions;
4 making conforming amendments; and providing for an
5 effective date.

6

7 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

8

9 **Section 1.** W.S. 6-2-321 is created to read:

10

11 **6-2-321. Grooming of minor for sexual offense;**
12 **definitions; penalties.**

13

1 (a) As used in this section:

2

3 (i) "Electronic communication" means a sign,
4 signal, writing, image, sound, data or intelligence of any
5 nature transmitted or created, in whole or in part, by a
6 wire, radio, electromagnetic, photoelectronic or photo-
7 optical system;

8

9 (ii) "Grooming" means behavior that seeks to
10 prepare, induce or persuade a minor to engage in sexual
11 conduct or exploitation, even if no meeting or sexual
12 conduct is completed. "Grooming" includes:

13

14 (A) Deliberate acts that establish an
15 emotional connection with a minor through manipulation,
16 trust-building or influence to facilitate acts of sexual
17 conduct, sexual abuse or exploitation;

18

19 (B) Online or in-person activities, the use
20 of third parties or indirect methods to facilitate the
21 manipulation of a minor.

22

23 (iii) "Sexual conduct" means:

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2

(A) Actual or simulated:

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(I) Sexual intercourse, whether between
persons of the same or opposite sex;

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(II) Penetration of the vagina or
rectum by any object, except when done as part of a
recognized medical procedure;

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11

(III) Bestiality;

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(IV) Masturbation;

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(V) Sadomasochistic abuse;

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(VI) Lewd exhibition of the genitals,
breasts, pubic or rectal area or other intimate parts of a
person; or

20

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22

(VII) Defecation or urination for the
purpose of the sexual stimulation of the viewer.

23

(ii) The depiction or observation of a child in the nude or in a state of partial undress with the purpose to:

(A) Abuse, humiliate, harass or degrade the child;

(B) To arouse or gratify the person's own sexual response or desire; or

(C) To arouse or gratify the sexual response or desire of another person.

STAFF COMMENT
Wyoming law provides a definition of "sexual conduct" for purposes of Wyoming's obscenity laws; that definition is included here for reference:

6-4-301. Definitions.

(a) As used in this article:

(v) "Sexual conduct" means:

(A) Patently offensive representations or descriptions of ultimate sexual acts, normal or perverted, actual or simulated;

(B) Sado-masochistic abuse; or

1
2 (C) Patently offensive representations or
3 descriptions of masturbation, excretory functions or lewd
4 exhibitions of the genitals.

5
6 Wyoming law also includes a definition of "explicit sexual
7 conduct" for purposes of the offense of sexual exploitation
8 of children:

9
10 6-4-303. Sexual exploitation of children; penalties;
11 definitions.

12
13 (a) As used in this section:

14
15 (iii) "Explicit sexual conduct" means actual or
16 simulated sexual intercourse, including genital-genital,
17 oral-genital, anal-genital or oral-anal, between persons of
18 the same or opposite sex, bestiality, masturbation,
19 sadistic or masochistic abuse or lascivious exhibition of
20 the genitals or pubic area of any person;

21
22 *****
23 *****
24

25 (iv) "Simulated" means any depiction of the
26 genitals or pubic or rectal area that gives the appearance
27 of sexual conduct or incipient sexual conduct.

28
29 (b) A person commits the offense of grooming of a
30 minor for a sexual offense if the person purposely or
31 knowingly engages in a pattern of grooming aimed at a minor
32 or the minor's parent or guardian with the intent to:

33

(i) Manipulate the minor into engaging in sexual
conduct;

(ii) Coerce or entice a minor under sixteen (16)
years of age to meet in person to engage in sexual conduct;

(iii) Distribute or facilitate access to sexually
explicit material; or

(iv) Exploit a position of authority to develop
an intimate or secretive relationship with a minor.

STAFF COMMENT

The Committee may wish to consider whether a definition of
"intimate or secretive relationship" is necessary. Other
states use the term "dating relationship" in statute, which
is generally defined as "a romantic or intimate
relationship between individuals." See, e.g., Utah Code
Ann. § 76-11-301(6)(a); La. Rev. Stat. § 44:51(2); Neb.
Rev. Stat. § 42-1203(3).

(c) Except as provided in subsections (d) and (e) of
this section, grooming of a minor for a sexual offense is a
felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than ten

1 (10) years, a fine not to exceed ten thousand dollars
2 (\$10,000.00), or both.

3

4 (d) A person who commits grooming of a minor for a
5 sexual offense against a minor who is younger than sixteen
6 (16) years of age shall be guilty of a felony punishable
7 for imprisonment of not less than four (4) years up to and
8 including life imprisonment according to law, a fine not to
9 exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00), or both.

10

11 (e) A person who is not less than eighteen (18) years
12 of age who commits the offense of grooming of a minor for a
13 sexual offense against a minor who is less than twelve (12)
14 years of age shall be guilty of a felony punishable by
15 imprisonment for not less than twenty-five (25) years, a
16 fine not to exceed fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000.00), or
17 both.

18

19 (f) A person guilty of grooming of a minor for a
20 sexual offense under this section shall:

21

22 (i) Complete a sexual offender treatment program
23 provided or approved by the department of corrections;

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2 (ii) Be subject to probation for the remainder of
3 the person's life, notwithstanding W.S. 7-13-302(b).

4

5 **Section 2.** W.S. 6-2-301(a)(intro), 7-13-301(a)(intro)
6 and 7-19-302(g) are amended to read:

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8 **6-2-301. Definitions.**

9

10 (a) As used in this article, unless otherwise
11 defined:

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13 **7-13-301. Placing person found guilty, but not**
14 **convicted, on probation.**

15

16 (a) If a person who has not previously been convicted
17 of any felony is charged with or is found guilty of or
18 pleads guilty or no contest to any misdemeanor except any
19 second or subsequent violation of W.S. 31-5-233 or any
20 similar provision of law, or any second or subsequent
21 violation of W.S. 6-2-510(a) or 6-2-511(a) or any similar
22 provision of law, or any felony except murder, sexual
23 assault in the first or second degree, grooming of a minor

1 for a sexual offense, aggravated assault and battery or
2 arson in the first or second degree, the court may, with
3 the consent of the defendant and the state and without
4 entering a judgment of guilt or conviction, defer further
5 proceedings and place the person on probation for a term
6 not to exceed thirty-six (36) months upon terms and
7 conditions set by the court. The terms of probation shall
8 include that he:

9
10 **7-19-302. Registration of offenders; procedure;**
11 **verification; fees.**

12
13 (g) For an offender convicted of a violation of W.S.
14 6-2-316(a)(i) and (iv), 6-2-321, 6-2-705, 6-4-303(b)(iv) or
15 6-4-304(b) if the victim was a minor, 18 U.S.C. §§ 2252B,
16 2252C, 2424 and 2425, an offense in another jurisdiction
17 containing the same or similar elements, or arising out of
18 the same or similar facts or circumstances as a criminal
19 offense specified in this subsection or an attempt or
20 conspiracy to commit any of the offenses specified in this
21 subsection, the division shall annually verify the accuracy
22 of the offender's registered address, and the offender
23 shall annually report, in person, his current address to

1 the sheriff in the county in which the offender resides,
2 during the period in which he is required to register.
3 During the annual in-person verification, the sheriff shall
4 photograph the offender. Confirmation of the in-person
5 verification required under this subsection, along with the
6 photograph of the offender, shall be transmitted by the
7 sheriff to the division within three (3) working days. Any
8 person under this subsection who has not established a
9 residence or is transient, and who is reporting to the
10 sheriff as required under subsection (e) of this section,
11 shall be deemed in compliance with the address verification
12 requirements of this section.

13

14 **Section 3.** This act is effective July 1, 2026.

15

16 (END)