~~Indicates Matter Stricken~~

Indicates New Matter

COMMITTEE REPORT

April 14, 2010

**H. 3369**

Introduced by Reps. T.R. Young, Huggins, E.H. Pitts, Ballentine, Bingham, Haley, Cato, Clyburn, Hearn, G.M. Smith, G.R. Smith, J.R. Smith, Spires, Stewart, Viers and Wylie

S. Printed 4/14/10--H.

Read the first time January 28, 2009.

**THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

To whom was referred a Bill (H. 3369) to amend Section 16‑15‑342, Code of Laws of South Carolina, 1976, relating to the offense of criminal solicitation of a minor, so as to increase, etc., respectfully

**REPORT:**

That they have duly and carefully considered the same and recommend that the same do pass with amendment:

Amend the bill, as and if amended, by striking all after the enacting words and inserting:

/ SECTION 1. Section 16‑15‑342 of the 1976 Code, as added by Act 208 of 2004, is amended to read:

“Section 16‑15‑342. (A) A person eighteen years of age or older commits the offense of criminal solicitation of a minor if he knowingly contacts or communicates with, or attempts to contact or communicate with, a person who is under the age of eighteen, or a person reasonably believed to be under the age of eighteen, for the purpose of or with the intent of persuading, inducing, enticing, or coercing the person to engage or participate in a sexual activity as defined in Section 16‑15‑375(5) or a violent crime as defined in Section 16‑1‑60, or with the intent to perform a sexual activity in the presence of the person under the age of eighteen, or person reasonably believed to be under the age of eighteen.

(B) Consent is a defense to a prosecution pursuant to this section if the person under the age of eighteen, or the person reasonably believed to be under the age of eighteen, is at least sixteen years old.

(C) Consent is not a defense to a prosecution pursuant to this section if the person under the age of eighteen, or the person reasonably believed to be under the age of eighteen, is under the age of sixteen.

(D) It is not a defense to a prosecution pursuant to this section, on the basis of consent or otherwise, that the person reasonably believed to be under the age of eighteen is a law enforcement agent or officer acting in an official capacity.

(E) A person who violates the provisions of this section: ~~is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than five thousand dollars or imprisoned for not more than ten years, or both~~

(1) for a first offense, is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than twenty‑five thousand dollars or imprisoned for not more than twenty‑five years, or both; and

(2) for a second or subsequent offense, is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than twenty‑five thousand dollars and imprisoned for not less than a mandatory minimum of five years nor more than twenty‑five years, no part of which may be suspended nor probation granted.”

SECTION 2. Article 7, Chapter 3, Title 16 of the 1976 Code is amended by adding:

“Section 16‑3‑760. (A) For purposes of this section:

(1) ‘Aggravated coercion’ means that the person affiliated with a public or private secondary school in an official capacity threatens to use force or violence of a high and aggravated nature to overcome the student, if the student reasonably believes that the person has the present ability to carry out the threat, or threatens to retaliate in the future by the infliction of physical harm, kidnapping, or extortion, under circumstances of aggravation, against the student.

(2) ‘Aggravated force’ means that the person affiliated with a public or private secondary school in an official capacity uses physical force or physical violence of a high and aggravated nature to overcome the student or includes the threat of the use of a deadly weapon.

(3) ‘Person affiliated with a public or private secondary school in an official capacity’ means an administrator, teacher, substitute teacher, teacher’s assistant, student teacher, law enforcement officer, school bus driver, guidance counselor, or coach who is affiliated with a public or private secondary school but is not a student enrolled in the school.

(4) ‘Secondary school’ means either a junior high school or a high school.

(5) ‘Sexual battery’ means sexual intercourse, cunnilingus, fellatio, anal intercourse, or any intrusion, however slight, of any part of a person’s body or of any object into the genital or anal openings of another person’s body, except when such intrusion is accomplished for medically recognized treatment or diagnostic purposes.

(6) ‘Student’ means a person who is enrolled in a school.

(B) If a person affiliated with a public or private secondary school in an official capacity engages in sexual battery with a student enrolled in the school who is sixteen or seventeen years of age and aggravated coercion or aggravated force is not used to accomplish the sexual battery, the person affiliated with the public or private secondary school in an official capacity is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, must be imprisoned for not more than five years.

(C) If a person affiliated with a public or private secondary school in an official capacity engages in sexual battery with a student enrolled in the school who is eighteen years of age or older and aggravated coercion or aggravated force is not used to accomplish the sexual battery, the person affiliated with the public or private secondary school in an official capacity is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than five hundred dollars or imprisoned for thirty days, or both.

(D) This section does not apply if the person affiliated with a public or private secondary school in an official capacity is lawfully married to the student at the time of the act.”

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor. /

Renumber sections to conform.

Amend title to conform.

JAMES H. HARRISON for Committee.

**STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT**

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES:

A Cost to the General Fund (See Below)

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT ON FEDERAL & OTHER FUND EXPENDITURES:

$0 (No additional expenditures or savings are expected)

**EXPLANATION OF IMPACT:**

Department of Corrections

The department indicates that the new penalties for first and second offenses of Criminal Solicitation of a Minor will increase their average daily population by 17 inmates initially, with the potential of that number of inmates increasing to between 63 and 155 over the next ten years. The department indicates enactment of this bill will have a fiscal impact on the General Fund of the State ranging from a minimum $21,000 in the first year to $194,000 per year once the bill is fully implemented.

Judicial Department

The Judicial Department indicates that enactment of this bill will have a minimal impact on the General Fund of the State, which the agency can absorb at their current level of funding. With any new criminal offense and stiffer penalties, the significant increase in judicial caseload may occur. The result is longer processing time for all criminal cases.

*Approved By:*

Harry Bell

Office of State Budget

**A** **BILL**

TO AMEND SECTION 16‑15‑342, CODE OF LAWS OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1976, RELATING TO THE OFFENSE OF CRIMINAL SOLICITATION OF A MINOR, SO AS TO INCREASE THE PENALTY FOR THE OFFENSE.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina:

SECTION 1. Section 16‑15‑342 of the 1976 Code, as added by Act 208 of 2004, is amended to read:

“Section 16‑15‑342. (A) A person eighteen years of age or older commits the offense of criminal solicitation of a minor if he knowingly contacts or communicates with, or attempts to contact or communicate with, a person who is under the age of eighteen, or a person reasonably believed to be under the age of eighteen, for the purpose of or with the intent of persuading, inducing, enticing, or coercing the person to engage or participate in a sexual activity as defined in Section 16‑15‑375(5) or a violent crime as defined in Section 16‑1‑60, or with the intent to perform a sexual activity in the presence of the person under the age of eighteen, or person reasonably believed to be under the age of eighteen.

(B) Consent is a defense to a prosecution pursuant to this section if the person under the age of eighteen, or the person reasonably believed to be under the age of eighteen, is at least sixteen years old.

(C) Consent is not a defense to a prosecution pursuant to this section if the person under the age of eighteen, or the person reasonably believed to be under the age of eighteen, is under the age of sixteen.

(D) It is not a defense to a prosecution pursuant to this section, on the basis of consent or otherwise, that the person reasonably believed to be under the age of eighteen is a law enforcement agent or officer acting in an official capacity.

(E) A person who violates the provisions of this section is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, must be fined not more than ~~five~~twenty-five thousand dollars or imprisoned for not less than a mandatory minimum of five years nor more than ~~ten~~twenty-five years, or both.”

SECTION 2. The repeal or amendment by this act of any law, whether temporary or permanent or civil or criminal, does not affect pending actions, rights, duties, or liabilities founded thereon, or alter, discharge, release or extinguish any penalty, forfeiture, or liability incurred under the repealed or amended law, unless the repealed or amended provision shall so expressly provide. After the effective date of this act, all laws repealed or amended by this act must be taken and treated as remaining in full force and effect for the purpose of sustaining any pending or vested right, civil action, special proceeding, criminal prosecution, or appeal existing as of the effective date of this act, and for the enforcement of rights, duties, penalties, forfeitures, and liabilities as they stood under the repealed or amended laws.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon approval by the Governor.

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