

State of Arkansas
95th General Assembly
Regular Session, 2025

As Engrossed: S4/8/25

A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1777

By: Representative Gazaway

By: Senator Gilmore

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE OFFENSE OF SEXUALLY GROOMING A CHILD; TO INCLUDE BRIBING OR ATTEMPTING TO BRIBE A CHILD IN THE OFFENSE OF SEXUALLY GROOMING A CHILD; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO AMEND THE LAW CONCERNING THE OFFENSE OF SEXUALLY GROOMING A CHILD; AND TO INCLUDE BRIBING OR ATTEMPTING TO BRIBE A CHILD IN THE OFFENSE OF SEXUALLY GROOMING A CHILD.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code § 5-27-307 is amended to read as follows:

5-27-307. Sexually grooming a child.

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Bribe" means to offer or bestow any property, gift, good, or service or to withhold any property, gift, good or service with the purpose of garnering acceptance, cooperation, or compliance; and

(2) "disseminates" "Disseminates" means to allow to view, expose, furnish, present, sell, or otherwise distribute.

(b) A person commits sexually grooming a child if, ~~he or she knowingly disseminates to a child thirteen (13) years of age or younger with or without consideration a visual or print medium depicting sexually explicit conduct~~ with the purpose to entice, induce, or groom ~~the~~ a child thirteen (13) years of age or younger to engage ~~in the following~~ with a person:



~~(1) Sexual intercourse;~~

~~(2) Sexually explicit conduct; or~~

~~(3) Deviate sexual activity in sexual intercourse, sexually explicit conduct, or deviate sexual activity, he or she:~~

(1) Disseminates to the child with or without consideration a visual or print medium depicting sexually explicit conduct; or

(2) Bribes or attempts to bribe the child to participate in sexual intercourse, sexually explicit conduct, or deviate sexual activity.

(c) Sexually grooming a child is a:

(1) Class D felony if the actor is twenty-one (21) years of age or older; or

(2) Class A misdemeanor if the actor is younger than twenty-one (21) years of age.

(d) It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under this section that the actor was not more than three (3) years older than the victim.

(e) It is not a defense to prosecution under this section that the actor does not know the age of the child or believes the child is fourteen (14) years of age or older.

/s/Gazaway

APPROVED: 4/16/25