

STATE OF NEW YORK

6341--A

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

April 17, 2023

Introduced by Sens. HOYLMAN-SIGAL, BROUK, CHU, COMRIE, FERNANDEZ, GIANARIS, PARKER, SCARCELLA-SPANTON, SKOUFIS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Codes -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the penal law, in relation to criminalizing the harassment of a child; and to amend the civil rights law, in relation to establishing a private right of action for harassment of a child

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The penal law is amended by adding a new section 260.16 to
2 read as follows:

3 § 260.16 Harassment of a child.

4 A person is guilty of harassment of a child when he or she inten-
5 tionally or knowingly harasses, annoys or alarms a child or a child's
6 parent or guardian by:

7 1. striking, shoving, kicking, or otherwise subjecting such child to
8 physical contact, or attempting or threatening to do the same;

9 2. following or lying in wait of a child, provided that for the
10 purposes of this section, "lying in wait" means holding oneself in a
11 concealed position to watch and wait for a child;

12 3. recording or attempting to record a child's image or voice, without
13 the express consent of the parent or legal guardian of the child, or, if
14 the child is fourteen years old or older, the express consent of the
15 child, unless the person acts in a reasonable manner and the recording
16 is of the child:

17 (a) engaging in public speech or demonstration; or

18 (b) attending or participating in a newsworthy public event;

19 4. engaging in a course of conduct or repeatedly committing acts which
20 alarm, seriously annoy, or cause emotional distress of a child which
21 serve no legitimate purpose; or

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 5. publishing identifying or contact information about the child with-
2 out the express consent of the parent or legal guardian of the child,
3 or, if the child is fourteen years old or older, the express consent of
4 the child.

5 Harassment of a child in the first degree is a class A misdemeanor.

6 § 2. The civil rights law is amended by adding a new section 52-e to
7 read as follows:

8 § 52-e. Private right of action for harassment of a child. A parent or
9 legal guardian whose child was subject to conduct which, if proven,
10 would constitute a violation of section 260.16 of the penal law, may
11 bring a civil action against the individual that engaged in such conduct
12 on behalf of the child. The remedies in that civil action shall be
13 limited to one or more of the following: actual damages, punitive
14 damages, reasonable attorney's fees, costs, disgorgement of any compen-
15 sation from the sale, license, or dissemination of the child's image or
16 voice received by the individual, and injunctive relief. The rights and
17 remedies conferred in this section shall be cumulative and in addition
18 to and not in lieu of any other rights or remedies available under law.

19 § 3. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall
20 have become a law.