

STATE OF NEW YORK

7855--A

2025-2026 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

April 11, 2025

Introduced by M. of A. BORES, PAULIN, TORRES, HEVESI, BRABENEC, BARRETT, RAGA, WOERNER, CONRAD, GRAY, BEEPHAN, STECK, WIEDER, LAVINE, STIRPE, LASHER, EACHUS, YEGER -- read once and referred 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 establishing crimes for the unlawful dissemination or publication of an intimate image; to amend the criminal procedure law, in relation to the statute of limitations for commencing cases related to the unlawful dissemination or publication of an intimate image; and to repeal section 245.15 of the penal law relating to the unlawful dissemination or publication of an intimate image

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

1 Section 1. Section 245.15 of the penal law is REPEALED and four new
2 sections 245.15, 245.16, 245.17 and 245.18 are added to read as follows:

3 § 245.15 Unlawful dissemination or publication of an intimate image;
4 definitions, application.

5 1. The following definitions shall apply to sections 245.16, 245.17,
6 and 245.18 of this article:

7 (a) "Intimate part" means the naked genitals, pubic area, anus or
8 female nipple of the person;

9 (b) "Disseminate" and "publish" shall have the same meaning as defined
10 in section 250.40 of this title;

11 (c) "Sexual conduct" shall have the same meaning as defined in subdi-
12 vision ten of section 130.00 of this part;

13 (d) "Digitization" shall mean to alter an image in a realistic manner
14 utilizing an image or images of a person, other than the person
15 depicted, or computer-generated images; and

16 (e) "Person" shall mean a natural person.

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

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1 2. The following provisions shall apply to sections 245.16, 245.17,
2 and 245.18 of this article:

3 (a) The provisions of sections 245.16, 245.17, and 245.18 shall not
4 apply to the following:

5 (i) the reporting of unlawful conduct;

6 (ii) the dissemination or publication of an intimate image made in the
7 course of official law enforcement duties, legal proceedings or criminal
8 prosecution, or medical treatment;

9 (iii) images involving voluntary exposure in a public setting; or

10 (iv) dissemination or publication of an intimate image made for a
11 legitimate public purpose.

12 (b) Nothing in section 245.16, 245.17, or 245.18 shall be construed to
13 limit, or to enlarge, the protections that 47 U.S.C § 230 confers on an
14 interactive computer service for content provided by another information
15 content provider, as such terms are defined in 47 U.S.C. § 230.

16 (c) Dissemination of multiple intimate images of the same individual
17 as part of a common act shall be considered a single offense.

18 (d) (i) A violation of section 245.16, 245.17, or 245.18 shall be
19 deemed to be committed within the state if any conduct that is an
20 element of the offense occurs within the state.

21 (ii) Prosecution for a violation of section 245.16, 245.17, or 245.18
22 may be tried in any jurisdiction in which the offense was committed or a
23 victim resides.

24 § 245.16 Unlawful dissemination or publication of an intimate image in
25 the third degree.

26 A person is guilty of unlawful dissemination or publication of an
27 intimate image in the third degree when such person:

28 1. intentionally disseminates or publishes a still or video image
29 depicting another person with one or more intimate parts exposed or
30 engaging in sexual conduct with another person, including an image
31 created or altered by digitization, where such person depicted may
32 reasonably be identified from the still or video image itself or from
33 information displayed in connection with the still or video image; and

34 2. knew or reasonably should have known that the person depicted did
35 not consent to or license such dissemination or publication, including
36 the dissemination or publication of an image taken with the consent of
37 the person depicted when such person had a reasonable expectation that
38 the image would remain private, regardless of whether the actor was
39 present when such image was taken.

40 Unlawful dissemination or publication of an intimate image in the
41 third degree is a class A misdemeanor.

42 § 245.17 Unlawful dissemination or publication of an intimate image in
43 the second degree.

44 A person is guilty of unlawful dissemination or publication of an
45 intimate image in the second degree when such person is eighteen years
46 of age or older and commits the crime of unlawful dissemination or
47 publication of an intimate image in the third degree and:

48 1. such person has previously been convicted of unlawful dissemination
49 or publication of an intimate image in the third degree, including a
50 conviction which occurred prior to such person reaching the age of eigh-
51 teen; or

52 2. such person commits such crime with intent to cause economic, phys-
53 ical, or substantial emotional harm to the person depicted in the inti-
54 mate image or to secure pecuniary gain from the unlawful dissemination
55 or publication of the intimate image.

1 Unlawful dissemination or publication of an intimate image in the
2 second degree is a class E felony.

3 § 245.18 Unlawful dissemination or publication of an intimate image in
4 the first degree.

5 A person is guilty of unlawful dissemination or publication of an
6 intimate image in the first degree when such person is eighteen years of
7 age or older and commits the crime of unlawful dissemination or publica-
8 tion of an intimate image in the third degree and:

9 1. such person has previously been convicted of the crime of unlawful
10 dissemination or publication of an intimate image in the second degree
11 as defined in subdivision one of section 245.17 of this article; or

12 2. such person commits the crime of unlawful dissemination or publica-
13 tion of an intimate image in the second degree as defined in subdivision
14 two of section 245.17 of this article and the person against whom the
15 offense is committed is targeted due to such person's race, religious
16 conviction, gender, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation,
17 color, or ethnic or national origin.

18 Unlawful dissemination or publication of an intimate image in the
19 first degree is a class D felony.

20 § 2. Subdivision 3 of section 30.10 of the criminal procedure law is
21 amended by adding two new paragraphs (i) and (j) to read as follows:

22 (i) A prosecution for unlawful dissemination or publication of an
23 intimate image in the third degree as defined in section 245.16 of the
24 penal law must be commenced within five years of the commission of the
25 crime.

26 (j) A prosecution for unlawful dissemination or publication of an
27 intimate image in the first or second degree as defined in sections
28 245.17 and 245.18 of the penal law must be commenced within seven years
29 of the commission of the crime, or, in the exercise of reasonable dili-
30 gence, within three years after the aggrieved party should have discov-
31 ered the unlawful dissemination or publication of an intimate image,
32 whichever is later.

33 § 3. This act shall take effect on the sixtieth day after it shall
34 have become a law.