

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 503

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Version: As Introduced

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Subject: Internet Sexual Solicitation/Communication with Children

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Overview

This bill expands the scope of the statute that criminalizes solicitation of children to engage in sexual conduct by adding to the statute offenses committed over the Internet.

Section

1 Solicitation of Children to Engage in Sexual Conduct.

Subd. 1. Definitions. Adds the term "sexually explicit" to the current list of defined terms: "child," "sexual conduct," and "solicit." A "child" is defined as a person 15 years of age or younger.

Subd. 2. Prohibited act. Strikes the penalty language and moves it to new subdivision 4.

Subd. 2a. Internet or computer solicitation of children. A person 18 years of age or older is guilty of a felony if he uses a computer or the Internet to communicate with a child with the intent to arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any person and the person does any of the following:

- "solicits" a child to engage in sexual conduct;
- communicates in a "sexually explicit" manner with a child; or
- distributes "sexually explicit" material to a child.

Subd. 2b. Jurisdiction. Permits prosecution of an offense under subdivision 2a if the

communication originated or was received within the state.

Subd. 3. Defenses. Denies perpetrators the defense that an undercover operative was involved in the detection or investigation of an offense.

Subd. 4. Penalty. Maintains the current three-year felony for a violation of this section.

Effective Date. This section is effective August 1, 2007.