

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 1126  
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**Subject:** Sex offenses by Persons in Authority

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This bill amends the definition of “position of authority” in the criminal sexual conduct statutes. Currently, felony penalties apply to an adult who has sexual contact with a 16 or 17 year old juvenile and the adult is in a position of authority over the juvenile. The bill extends the definition so that an adult who was recently (*ie*, within the past two years) in a position of authority over a 16 or 17 year is also subject to criminal penalties for having a sexual relationship with the juvenile.

The bill also creates parallel new offenses in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> degree criminal sexual conduct statutes for a person who works or volunteers at a school and has a sexual relationship with a student who the perpetrator came into contact with because of the perpetrator’s duties at the victim’s school. The perpetrator does not need to be in a position of authority for these offenses to apply. Like the broadened definition of position of authority discussed above, these offenses cover cases where the perpetrator no longer works or volunteers at the victim’s school but did so within the preceding 24 months. These offenses protect victims between the ages of 13 and 18. The perpetrator must be at least four years older than the victim.