

Subject Sex Offenses by Persons in Authority

Authors Wazlawik

Analyst Jeff Diebel

Date February 20, 2019

Overview

This bill broadens the definition of “position of authority” in the criminal sexual conduct statutes. Currently, felony penalties apply to an adult who sexually penetrates or contacts a 16 or 17 year old juvenile when the adult is in a position of authority over the juvenile. The bill extends the definition so that an adult who was recently (i.e., within the past 120 days) in a position of authority over a 16 or 17 year old is also subject to criminal penalties for having a sexual relationship with the juvenile.

The bill also extends the definition of position of authority to cases where an adult “assumes” authority over a victim. Currently, the provision only applies when the adult is “charged” with providing some parental obligation to the juvenile.