



Substitute House Bill No. 5312

Public Act No. 26-55

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CIVIL ACTION FOR THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND A PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION FOR VICTIMS OF UNLAWFUL DISSEMINATION OF A SYNTHETICALLY CREATED INTIMATE IMAGE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) Any individual harmed by the unlawful dissemination of a synthetically created intimate image may bring a civil action in the Superior Court to enjoin further dissemination of such image and for economic and noneconomic damages, including damages for emotional distress and punitive damages, that are determined to have been proximately caused by reason of such dissemination. The court may award costs and reasonable attorneys' fees to the prevailing party. Such civil action may be maintained against such individual who knowingly disseminates by electronic or other means a synthetically created intimate image with the intent to harm such other individual.

(b) At the request of the individual initiating an action brought pursuant to this section, the court may, in its discretion, conduct all legal proceedings in such a way as to protect the identity of the individual initiating the action.

(c) The provisions of this section shall not be construed to limit any

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individual's right to pursue any additional civil remedy otherwise allowed by law.

(d) A civil action under this section shall not be commenced by any individual harmed by the unlawful dissemination of any synthetically created intimate image but within two years from the date of the discovery of unlawful dissemination of the synthetically created intimate image by such individual.

(e) For the purposes of this section, (1) "disseminate", "harm" and "synthetically created image" have the same meanings as provided in section 53a-189d of the general statutes, (2) "intimate image" means any image when such image is of (A) the genitals, pubic area or buttocks of another individual with less than fully opaque covering of such body part, or the breast of another individual who is female with less than a fully opaque covering of any portion of such breast below the top of the nipple, or (B) another individual engaged in sexual intercourse or sexually explicit conduct, as those terms are defined in section 53a-193 of the general statutes, and (3) "synthetically created intimate image" means an intimate image that is a synthetically created image.

Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) A covered platform, as described in 47 USC 223a, shall establish and maintain a process whereby an individual harmed as described in section 1 of this act or the Attorney General may notify the covered platform of a synthetically created intimate image unlawfully disseminated and may request that such synthetically created intimate image be removed. Such process shall include, in writing, (1) (A) a valid signature of the individual harmed or of an authorized person acting on behalf of such individual, or (B) a duly authorized agent or designee of the Attorney General, (2) information reasonably sufficient for the covered platform to locate the synthetically created intimate image in question, including any digital evidence and, if applicable, any particular uniform resource locator, (3) a brief statement that the synthetically created intimate image was

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published without consent or is otherwise in violation of law, and (4) where the request was submitted by the individual harmed as described in section 1 of this act or an authorized person acting on behalf of such individual, information sufficient to enable the covered platform to contact such individual or such authorized person acting on behalf of such individual.

(b) A covered platform shall provide on the platform a clear and conspicuous notice, which may be provided through a clear and conspicuous link to another web page or disclosure of the process established in subsection (a) of this section that (1) is easy to read and in plain language, and (2) provides information regarding the responsibilities of the covered platform under this section, including a description of how an individual can submit a notice and request for removal of a synthetically created intimate image.

(c) Upon receiving a valid removal request pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, a covered platform shall, as soon as possible, but not later than forty-eight hours after receiving such request, (1) remove the synthetically created intimate image, and (2) make reasonable efforts to identify and remove copies of such synthetically created intimate image.

(d) A covered platform, acting in good faith in accordance with this section, shall not be liable for any claim based on the covered platform's disabling of access to, or removal of, any synthetically created intimate image.

(e) Upon petition to the Superior Court by the Attorney General, a covered platform that violates the provisions of this section may be subject to civil penalties of up to twenty-five thousand dollars per day for an individual harmed as described in section 1 of this act.

(f) The Attorney General may combine such action with any other action within the Attorney General's power to maintain, including an

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action under chapter 735a of the general statutes.

(g) Nothing in this section shall limit the right of an individual adversely affected by violations of the law from bringing a private cause of action under section 1 of this act or any other law that may entitle such individual to relief.

(h) As used in this section, "synthetically created intimate image" has the same meaning as provided in section 1 of this act.