

House Bill 993

By: Representatives Powell of the 33rd, Smith of the 18th, Ridley of the 6th, McCollum of the 30th, Collins of the 71st, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Part 2 of Article 3 of Chapter 12 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia
2 Annotated, relating to offenses related to minors generally, so as to provide for the offense
3 of grooming a minor for indecent purposes; to provide for a definition; to provide for a
4 penalty; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 **SECTION 1.**

7 Part 2 of Article 3 of Chapter 12 of Title 16 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated,
8 relating to offenses related to minors generally, is amended by adding a new Code section
9 to read as follows:

10 "16-12-100.5.

11 (a) As used in this Code section, the term 'grooming' means actions or behaviors used by
12 an adult to establish an emotional connection with a minor to gain such minor's trust, for
13 the eventual objective of sexual abuse, manipulation, or exploitation. Such actions and
14 behaviors may include, but are not limited to, contact made online, in person, or by other
15 means of communication.

16 (b) A person commits the crime of grooming a minor when such person makes contact
17 with a minor to establish trust with the eventual objective of arousing the sexual desire of
18 either the minor or such person.

19 (c) Any person who violates this Code section shall be guilty of a felony and punished by
20 imprisonment for not less than one nor more than five years."

21 **SECTION 2.**

22 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.