

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 720

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: MAY 18, 2023

The Senate Judiciary Committee reports favorably Senate Bill No. 720.

Under current law, cyber-harassment is a crime of the third degree if the offender is 21 years of age or older at the time of the offense and impersonates a minor for the purpose of cyber-harassing a minor. This bill broadens the statute regarding the cyber-harassment of a minor by providing that a person is guilty of this third-degree crime if the person is 18 years of age or older and engages in any form of cyber-harassment of a minor. The bill eliminates the provision that the adult actor also impersonate a minor in order to be guilty of the crime.

A crime of the third degree is punishable by a term of imprisonment of three to five years, a fine of up to \$15,000, or both.

This bill was prefiled for introduction in the 2022-2023 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review, which has been performed.