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H.659

Introduced by Representative LaLonde of South Burlington

Referred to Committee on

Date:

Subject: Crimes; luring a child; grooming for sexual contact

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to expand the statute prohibiting luring a child to also prohibit grooming behaviors intended to facilitate sexual contact with a child.

An act relating to prohibiting grooming a child for sexual contact

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. 13 V.S.A. § 2828 is amended to read:

§ 2828. LURING A CHILD

(a) No person shall knowingly solicit, lure, groom, or entice, or to attempt to solicit, lure, groom, or entice, a child under ~~the age of 16 years of age~~ or another person believed by the person to be a child under ~~the age of 16 years of~~ age, to engage in a sexual act as defined in section 3251 of this title or engage in lewd and lascivious conduct as defined in section 2602 of this title.

(b) This section applies to solicitation, luring, grooming, or enticement by any means, including in person, through written or telephonic correspondence or electronic communication.

1 (c) This section shall not apply if ~~the person is less than 19 years old, the~~
2 ~~child is at least 15 years old, and~~ the conduct is consensual and there is an age
3 difference of less than 48 months, unless the person and alleged victim meet
4 the criteria outlined in subsection (d) of this section.

5 (d) No person shall knowingly solicit, lure, groom, or entice, or attempt to
6 solicit, lure, groom or entice, a child under 18 years of age or another person
7 believed by the person to be a child under 18 years of age, to engage in a
8 sexual act as defined in section 3251 of this title or engage in lewd and
9 lascivious conduct as defined in section 2602 of this title if the person is in a
10 position of power, authority, or supervision over the minor by virtue of the
11 person's professional or voluntary role as a provider of health care, guidance,
12 leadership, instruction, organized recreational activities, or religious activity
13 for minors.

14 (e) As used in this section, "grooming" means an action or actions
15 undertaken for the purpose of facilitating sexual contact with a child or student.

16 Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

17 This act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.