



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 532**

February Session, 2026

Substitute House Bill No. 5312

*House of Representatives, April 9, 2026*

The Committee on Judiciary reported through REP. STAFSTROM of the 129th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

***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:

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

12 (b) At the request of the person initiating an action brought pursuant

13 to this section, the court may, in its discretion, conduct all legal  
14 proceedings in such a way as to protect the identity of the person  
15 initiating the action.

16 (c) The provisions of this section shall not be construed to limit any  
17 person's right to pursue any additional civil remedy otherwise allowed  
18 by law.

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

24 (e) For the purposes of this section:

25 (1) "Disseminate" means to sell, give, provide, lend, trade, mail,  
26 deliver, transfer, publish, distribute, circulate, present, exhibit, advertise  
27 or otherwise offer;

28 (2) "Harm" includes, but is not limited to, being subjected to hatred,  
29 contempt, ridicule, physical injury, financial injury, psychological harm  
30 or serious emotional distress;

31 (3) "Intimate image" means any image when such image is of (A) the  
32 genitals, pubic area or buttocks of another person with less than fully  
33 opaque covering of such body part, or the breast of another person who  
34 is female with less than a fully opaque covering of any portion of such  
35 breast below the top of the nipple, or (B) another person engaged in  
36 sexual intercourse or sexually explicit conduct, as those terms are  
37 defined in section 53a-193 of the general statutes;

38 (4) "Synthetically created image" means any photograph, film,  
39 videotape or other image of a person that (A) is (i) not wholly recorded  
40 by a camera, or (ii) either partially or wholly generated by a computer  
41 system, and (B) depicts, and is virtually indistinguishable from what a  
42 reasonable person would believe is the actual depiction of, an  
43 identifiable person; and

44 (5) "Synthetically created intimate image" means an intimate image  
45 that is a synthetically created image.

46 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2026*) (a) A covered platform, as  
47 described in 47 USC 223a, shall establish and maintain a process  
48 whereby an individual harmed as described in section 1 of this act or the  
49 Attorney General may notify the covered platform of a synthetically  
50 created intimate image unlawfully disseminated and may request that  
51 such synthetically created intimate image be removed. Such process  
52 shall include, in writing, (1) (A) a valid signature of the individual  
53 harmed or of an authorized person acting on behalf of such individual,  
54 or (B) a duly authorized agent or designee of the Attorney General, (2)  
55 information reasonably sufficient for the covered platform to locate the  
56 synthetically created intimate image in question, including any digital  
57 evidence and, if applicable, any particular uniform resource locator, (3)  
58 a brief statement that the synthetically created intimate image was  
59 published without consent or is otherwise in violation of law, and (4)  
60 where the request was submitted by the individual harmed as described  
61 in section 1 of this act or an authorized person acting on behalf of such  
62 individual, information sufficient to enable the covered platform to  
63 contact such individual or such authorized person acting on behalf of  
64 such individual.

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

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

77 identify and remove copies of such synthetically created intimate image.

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

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

86 (f) The Attorney General may combine such action with any other  
87 action within the Attorney General's power to maintain, including an  
88 action under chapter 735a of the general statutes.

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

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

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2026	New section
Sec. 2	October 1, 2026	New section

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In Section 1(a), the first sentence was rewritten for clarity; and in Section 2(a), "covered platform, as such term is defined in 47 USC 223a," was changed to "covered platform, as described in 47 USC 223a," for accuracy.

**JUD** Joint Favorable Subst.

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

**OFA Fiscal Note**

**State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 27 \$	FY 28 \$
Resources of the General Fund	GF - Potential Revenue Gain	See Below	See Below

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill allows the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) to issue a civil penalty of up to \$25,000 per day for certain covered platform violations resulting in a potential revenue gain to the General Fund to the extent violations occur.

The bill also allows individuals or the OAG to bring an action in Superior Court over alleged unlawful dissemination of synthetically created intimate images and does not result in a fiscal impact to the state or municipalities. The court system disposes of over 250,000 cases annually and the number of cases is not anticipated to be great enough to need additional resources.

**The Out Years**

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of violations.

**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 5312*****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.*****SUMMARY**

This bill creates a civil cause of action for someone harmed by the unlawful dissemination of a synthetically created intimate image. (PA 25-168, § 261, made this dissemination a crime (see BACKGROUND).)

The bill allows the action in Superior Court against a person who knowingly and with intent to harm the other person, disseminates the image either electronically or by another method. “Harm” includes subjecting the other person to hatred, contempt, ridicule, physical or financial injury, psychological harm, or serious emotional distress.

The bill also requires covered platforms to have a removal process for individuals harmed by the unlawful dissemination of these images or the attorney general to ask for it to be removed. A “covered platform” is generally a publicly accessible website, application, or online service that hosts user-generated content as defined in federal law (see BACKGROUND).

Under the bill, when a platform receives a valid removal request, it must remove the image and make reasonable efforts to identify and remove any copies as soon as possible, but within 48 hours. The bill allows the attorney general to bring an action in Superior Court against platforms that violate the requirements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

**SYNTHETICALLY CREATED INTIMATE IMAGE**

Under the bill, a “synthetically created image” can be a photograph, film, videotape, or another type of image of someone. It must (1) not be wholly recorded by a camera or (2) be generated, at least in part, by a computer system. It must also depict an identifiable person and be virtually indistinguishable from what a reasonable person would believe to be an actual depiction of that person. An image is considered “intimate” when it has (1) certain body parts of another person (genitals, pubic area, or buttocks; or female breasts below the top of the nipple) without a fully opaque covering or (2) another person engaged in sexual intercourse or sexually explicit conduct.

### **CAUSE OF ACTION FOR WRONGFULLY DISSEMINATING A SYNTHETICALLY CREATED INTIMATE IMAGE**

The bill requires a cause of action to be brought within two years after the date of discovering the unlawful dissemination. It specifies that it does not restrict the right to seek any other civil remedies the law allows.

The bill allows the court, at the request of the person bringing the action, to have the legal proceedings conducted in a way that protects the person’s identity. The person bringing the action may seek an injunction against further violations and economic and noneconomic damages that are proximately caused by the action (for example, emotional distress and punitive damages).

The bill allows the court to award costs and reasonable attorney’s fees to the prevailing party.

### **COVERED PLATFORM CONTENT REMOVAL**

#### ***Removal Notice and Process***

The bill requires covered platforms to post a clear and conspicuous notice about their responsibilities regarding requests to remove unlawfully distributed synthetically created intimate images. The information may be provided through a link to another webpage or as a specific disclosure. It must be in plain language and easy to read and describe how to submit a notice about the image and a request for its removal.

Under the bill, the process for requesting the image's removal must include the following in writing:

1. a valid signature of the harmed person or authorized person acting on his or her behalf or the attorney general's authorized agent or designee;
2. information that is reasonably sufficient to locate the image involved, including any digital evidence and particular uniform resource locator (URL);
3. a brief statement that the image was published without consent or otherwise violates the law; and
4. contact information for requests from the harmed person or an authorized person acting on the person's behalf.

### ***Court Action and Liability***

The bill allows the attorney general to bring a civil action against a covered platform that violates the above requirements, including for civil penalties of up to \$25,000 per day for a person harmed by the dissemination.

Under the bill, the attorney general may combine this action with another action, such as one he brings for unfair trade practices violations. But the action does not limit a person's right to bring a private right of action for violations, as authorized by the bill and existing law.

The bill immunizes platforms from liability for claims based on disabling access to or removal of synthetically created intimate images if they acted in good faith.

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***Covered Platform — Definition***

Under federal law, a "covered platform" is generally a website, online service or application, or mobile application that serves the public and (1) primarily provides a forum for user-generated content

such as messages, videos, images, games, and audio files or (2) is in its regular course of trade or business to publish, curate, host, or make available content of non-consensual intimate visual depictions. It does not include (1) a broadband Internet access provider; (2) electronic mail; or (3) an online service, application, or website that primarily has content that is preselected by the provider (not user-generated) and for which any chat, comment, or interactive functionality is incidental to, directly related to, or dependent on the provider’s content (47 U.S.C. § 223a).

**Existing Criminal Penalties**

PA 25-168, § 161, made it a crime to intentionally disseminate synthetically created images of someone else in certain degrees of nudity or engaged in sexual intercourse, subject to several exceptions. The penalties vary based on (1) how the person distributed the image and (2) whether the person intended to cause harm. Specifically, disseminating an image to someone is a class D misdemeanor (punishable by up to 30 days in prison, a fine of up to \$250, or both), but doing so to multiple people through an interactive computer service, an information service, or a telecommunications device is a class C misdemeanor (punishable by up to three months in prison, a fine of up to \$500, or both). And it is a more serious offense to commit these actions with the intent to harm the victim when acquiring or creating the image or having it created.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 41 Nay 0 (03/23/2026)