
OLR Bill Analysis

SB 292

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFINITION OF "CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE MATERIAL".

SUMMARY

This bill expands the definition of "child sexual abuse material" to include any visual depiction in which the subject engaging in sexually explicit content appears indistinguishable from a person under age 16. Under the bill, "indistinguishable" means virtually indistinguishable, in that an ordinary person viewing the visual depiction would conclude that the subject is an actual person under age 16. It expressly excludes drawings, cartoons, sculptures, or paintings.

By specifying that these virtually indistinguishable depictions are child sexual abuse material, the bill subjects anyone who possesses, imports, or transmits them to charges of (1) 1st, 2nd, or 3rd degree possession of child sexual abuse material; (2) importation of child sexual abuse material; and (3) possession and transmission of child sexual abuse material by a minor (see penalties below).

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2026

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE MATERIAL

Under current law, "child sexual abuse material" is any visual depiction of sexually explicit conduct involving in its production a person under age 16 engaging in sexually explicit conduct, whether made or produced electronically, digitally, mechanically, or by other means. The bill expands this to include visual depictions in which the subject is virtually indistinguishable from an actual person under age 16, but excludes cartoons, sculptures, or paintings.

RELATED CRIMES

Under the bill, possessing, importing, or transmitting child sexual abuse material with visual depictions in which the subject is virtually indistinguishable from an actual person under age 16 can subject the person to charges of 1st, 2nd, or 3rd degree possession of child sexual abuse material, importation of child sexual abuse material, or possession and transmission of child sexual abuse material by a minor depending on the range of visual depictions and the series of images. The penalties for these crimes are shown in the table below.

Table: Penalties for Sexual Abuse Material-Related Crimes

<i>Child Sexual Abuse Material-Related Crimes</i>	<i>Classification</i>	<i>Penalty</i>	<i>Minimum Sentence</i>
1st Degree possession (CGS § 53a-196d)	Class B felony	One- to 20-year prison term, up to \$15,000 in fines, or both	Five-year minimum
2nd Degree possession (CGS § 53a-196e)	Class C felony	One- to 10-year prison term, up to \$10,000 in fines, or both	Two-year minimum
3rd Degree possession (CGS § 53a-196f)	Class D felony	Up to five-year prison term, up to \$5,000 in fines, or both	One-year minimum
Importing (CGS § 53a-196c)	Class B felony	One- to 20-year prison term, up to \$15,000 in fines, or both	Five-year minimum
Possessing or transmitting by a minor (CGS § 53a-196h)	Class A misdemeanor	Up to 364 days in prison, up to \$2,000 in fines, or both	None

COMMITTEE ACTION

Judiciary Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 41 Nay 0 (03/30/2026)