

Date of Hearing: March 25, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Darshana R. Patel, Chair
AB 2242 (Davies) – As Introduced February 19, 2026

SUBJECT: Pupil safety: sextortion informational poster

SUMMARY: Requires local education agencies (LEAs) that serve students in grades 7 to 12 to display a poster that contains age-appropriate information and resources related to the practice of sextortion. Specifically, **this bill**:

- 1) Defines sextortion as the threat to use sexual or intimate images or videos, however obtained, to compel another person to produce sexual or intimate images or videos, engage in sexual acts, or provide anything of value.
- 2) Requires LEAs with students in grades 7 through 12 to display a poster on sextortion in at least one men's and one women's restroom used by students. Specifies that the poster must be printed in both English and Spanish and be at least 12 by 18 inches in size.
- 3) Requires the content of the poster to include all of the following:
 - a) An age-appropriate description of sextortion;
 - b) Contact information for local, state, and federal law enforcement for the purpose of reporting or seeking assistance relating to sextortion;
 - c) Contact information for a national suicide prevention hotline; and
 - d) The internet address for the sextortion resources provided by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), or any federally funded successor entity, in either uniform resource locator (URL) quick response (QR), or another similar form.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Requires the State Board of Education (SBE) Instructional Quality Commission (IQC) to consider including content on sextortion when the health curriculum framework is next revised, on or after January 1, 2025. Defines sextortion as a threat to use sexual or intimate images or videos, however obtained, to compel another person to produce sexual or intimate images or videos, engage in sexual acts, or provide anything of value. (Education Code (EC) 33546.2)
- 2) Requires that students in grades 7 to 12, inclusive, receive instruction at least once in junior high or middle school and once in high school about adolescent relationship abuse and intimate partner violence, including the early warning signs. (EC 51934)
- 3) Authorizes a school district to provide optional instruction, as part of comprehensive sexual health education and HIV prevention education, regarding the potential risks and consequences of creating and sharing sexually suggestive or sexually explicit materials through cellular telephones, social networking websites, computer networks, or other digital media. (EC 51934)

- 4) Requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to post on its website resources on teen dating violence prevention, local and national hotlines and services for youth experiencing teen dating violence, and other relevant sources for parents, guardians, and other caretakers of students. (EC 231.7)
- 5) Requires that, when the health education framework is revised after January 1, 2016, the IQC consider including comprehensive information for grades 9 to 12, inclusive, on sexual harassment and violence that includes, but is not limited to, all of the following:
 - a) Information on different forms of sexual harassment and violence, including instances that occur among peers and in a dating relationship; a discussion of prevention strategies; how students report sexual harassment and violence; and potential resources victims can access;
 - b) Discussion of the affirmative consent standard, as defined, and skills students may use to establish boundaries in peer and dating relationships; and
 - c) Discussion of legal aspects of sexual harassment and violence under state and federal law. (EC 33544)
- 6) Requires that, if the governing board of a school district requires a course in health education for graduation from high school, the governing board of the school district include instruction in sexual harassment and violence, including, but not limited to, information on the affirmative consent standard, as defined. (EC 33544)

FISCAL EFFECT: This bill has been keyed as a possible state-mandated local program by the Office of Legislative Counsel.

COMMENTS:

Need for the bill. According to the author, “Our children are facing a digital crisis where ‘sextortion’ and technology-facilitated harassment are devastating lives in the shadows of our schools. While existing laws mandate that sexual harassment policies stay tucked away in administrative offices, AB 2242 meets students where they are by placing life-saving information and reporting resources in the private, high-traffic areas of restrooms and locker rooms. By requiring these notices to be printed in both English and Spanish, we are ensuring that every student, regardless of their background or primary language, has the tools to identify exploitation and the courage to come forward. We must act now to transform our schools from passive observers into proactive shields against the predators who weaponize technology to target our youth.”

What is sextortion, and how does it happen? Sextortion is a form of online enticement or blackmail. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) maintains a webpage with information and resources about sextortion. It describes sextortion as follows:

Sextortion can start on any site, app, messaging platform, or game where people meet and communicate. In some cases, the first contact from the criminal will be a threat. The person may claim to already have a revealing picture or video of a child that will be shared if the victim does not send more pictures.

More often, however, this crime starts when young people believe they are communicating with someone their own age who is interested in a relationship or with someone who is offering something of value.

After the criminals have one or more videos or pictures, they threaten to publish that content, or they threaten violence, to get the victim to produce more images. The shame, fear, and confusion children feel when they are caught in this cycle often prevents them from asking for help or reporting the abuse. Caregivers and young people should understand how the crime occurs and openly discuss online safety.

It also describes financial sextortion as follows:

In these cases, the offender receives sexually explicit material from the child and then threatens to release the compromising material unless the victim sends money and/or gift cards. The amount requested varies, and the offender often releases the victim's sexually explicit material regardless of whether or not they receive payment. This increasing threat has resulted in an alarming number of deaths by suicide.

Rates of online enticement, including sextortion, are rising. The NCMEC observed a 300% increase in reports of online enticement, which includes sextortion, between 2021 and 2023. In 2023, their online CyberTipline received 186,000 reports of online enticement; in 2024, that number rose to 456,000 reports. Data comparing the number of reports in 2024 to 2025 (below) show reports continue to grow at an alarming rate. The extent to which this increase represents improved awareness of online enticement and how to report it, versus an increase in the actual crime, is unknown.

Reports Made Between Jan. 1 - June 30	2024	2025
Online Enticement	292,951	518,720
Sadistic Online Enticement	508	1,093
Financial Sextortion	13,842	23,593
Generative Artificial Intelligence	6,835	440,419
Child Sex Trafficking	5,976	62,891

Source: NCMEC, 2025

NCMEC sextortion resources. The NCMEC website maintains a page on online enticement, which includes sextortion. The resources gathered are thorough and easy to understand. As of March 2025, these resources include:

- An overview of online enticement generally and sextortion specifically;
- Common tactics used to entice children;
- Online behaviors that increase a child's risk for sextortion;
- Statistics on the rates and incidence of online enticement;

- Information about their CyberTipline, which allows anyone to report suspected exploitative activity;
- Information about NetSmartz, an NCMEC online educational program that uses games, animated videos, classroom based lesson plans, and activities to help children make safer choices online;
- Information about Team HOPE, an NCMEC program that supports families of missing or sexually exploited children; and
- Links to current reports and data regarding online enticement.

Related legislation. AB 1766 (Krell) of the 2025-26 Session requires the IQC, the next time it revises the health curriculum framework, to consider including specified content on human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

AB 1792 (Michelle Rodriguez) of the 2025-26 Session requires that, during the next revision of health curriculum framework, the IQC consider including, and recommending for adoption by the SBE, specific content related to sexual health instruction to educate pupils about dating abuse and digital violence.

AB 2932 (Patterson), Chapter 118, Statutes of 2024, requires the SBE IQC to consider including content on sextortion when the health curriculum framework is next revised, on or after January 1, 2025.

AB 1071 (Hoover), Chapter 65, Statutes of 2023, requires the CDE to post on its website resources on teen dating violence prevention, local and national hotlines and services for youth experiencing teen dating violence, and other relevant sources for parents, guardians, and other caretakers of students.

AB 643 (Frazier), Chapter 574, Statutes of 2017, requires that content on the early warning signs of adolescent relationship abuse and intimate partner violence be included in mandated sexual health instruction.

SB 592 (Leyva) of the 2015-16 Session would have required school districts to provide educational programs that promote healthy relationships and prevent adolescent relationship abuse to students in grades 6-12, required the Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) to provide information for use by schools, and required school safety plans to include procedures and policies to prevent and respond to adolescent relationship abuse. This bill was held in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

AB 329 (Weber), Chapter 398, Statutes of 2015, makes instruction in sexual health education a requirement, revises HIV prevention education content, expands topics covered in sexual health education, requires this instruction to be inclusive of different sexual orientations, and clarifies parental consent policy.

SB 695 (de Leon), Chapter 424, Statutes of 2015, requires the IQC to consider adding content to the health curriculum framework for grades 9-12 on sexual harassment and violence, including the affirmative consent standard, and requires school districts which require a health course for graduation to include this content.

Committee Amendments. *Staff recommends the bill be amended* as follows:

- 1) Clarify the definition of an LEA, specify that a national suicide prevention hotline means the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, and specify that resources include the NCMEC webpage on sextortion and online enticement.
- 2) Require the CDE to, by July 1 2027, develop and maintain a template poster than LEAs can modify for their own use.
- 3) Clarify that the poster must be translated into any language spoken by 15% or more of the students enrolled at the school site, as determined pursuant to Section 48985.
- 4) Specify that the poster must posted in one gender neutral bathroom frequented by students, in addition to one men's and one women's.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**Support**

None on file

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Sarah Cate Hawthorne / ED. / (916) 319-2087