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**THIRD READING**

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Bill No: AB 2242  
Author: Davies (R)  
Amended: 6/11/26 in Senate  
Vote: 21

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SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE: 7-0, 6/24/26

AYES: Pérez, Ochoa Bogh, Cabaldon, Choi, Cortese, Gonzalez, Reyes

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26

AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE: 7-0, 8/13/26

AYES: Cervantes, Seyarto, Cabaldon, Dahle, Grayson, Richardson, Wahab

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 76-0, 5/28/26 - See last page for vote

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**SUBJECT:** Pupil safety: sextortion informational poster

**SOURCE:** Author

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**DIGEST:** This bill requires local educational agencies (LEAs) serving students in grades 7 to 12 to display an informational poster on sextortion in at least one of women's restroom, men's restroom, and all-gender restroom at each of its schoolsites. This bill also requires the California Department of Education (CDE) to develop and post on its website a model poster template for LEA use.

**ANALYSIS:**

Existing law:

- 1) Requires each schoolsite in a school district, county office of education (COE), or charter school, serving pupils in any of grades 9 through 12, inclusive, to create a poster that notifies pupils of the applicable written policy on sexual harassment. Requires that the poster be prominently and conspicuously

displayed in each bathroom and locker at the schoolsite. (Education Code (EC) § 231.6)

- 2) Requires the State Superintendent of Public Instruction (SPI) to create and post on the CDE website, a poster that notifies children of the appropriate telephone number to call to report child abuse or neglect. Encourages school districts, charter schools, and private schools to post the appropriate version or versions of the poster in an area of the school where pupils frequently congregate. (EC § 33133.5)
- 3) Requires each schoolsite in a school district, COE, or charter school serving pupils in grades 6 to 12, to create a poster that identifies approaches and shares resources regarding pupil mental health, as specified. Requires the poster to be prominently and conspicuously displayed in appropriate public areas that are accessible to, and commonly frequented by, pupils at each schoolsite. Requires the CDE to develop and maintain a model poster in collaboration with mental health experts, pupils, and administrators to serve as a guide for school districts, COEs, and charter schools. (EC § 49428.5)
- 4) 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 resources for parents, guardians, and other caretakers of students. (EC § 231.7)
- 5) Requires public schools, including charter schools and private schools, that serve students in any of grades 7 to 12, and public and private institutions of higher education that issue pupil or student identification cards, to print the telephone number for the National Domestic Violence Hotline and local domestic violence hotlines on those identification cards. (EC § 215.5)
- 6) Establishes the California Healthy Youth Act (CHYA), which requires LEAs to provide comprehensive sexual health and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) prevention instruction to all students in grades 7 to 12, at least once in middle school and once in high school. (EC § 51933)
- 7) Requires, as part of comprehensive sexual health education, that LEAs and charter schools provide students with instruction on sexual assault, intimate partner violence, sexual abuse, and human trafficking. (EC § 51934)
- 8) Requires, as part of comprehensive sexual health education, that LEAs and charter schools provide information on local resources for assistance with sexual assault and intimate partner violence. (EC § 51934)

- 9) Requires the Instructional Quality Commission (IQC), during its next revision of the Health Education Framework, on or after January 1, 2025, to consider including content on sextortion. 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. (EC § 33546.2)

This bill:

- 1) Requires LEAs, on or before the 2027-28 school year, to display at each schoolsite it maintains, in at least one men’s restroom, one women’s restroom, and one all-gender restroom used by pupils, a legible poster printed in English and any primary language other than English spoken by at least 15% of pupils enrolled at the schoolsite that is at least 12 by 18 inches in size that contains all of the following information:
  - a) An age-appropriate description of sextortion.
  - b) Contact information for local, state, and federal law enforcement for purposes of reporting and seeking assistance related to sextortion.
  - c) Contact information for the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.
  - d) The Uniform Resource Locator (URL), quick response (QR) code, or similar resource to identify the internet website for informational and support resources regarding online enticement, including sextortion, provided by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children or any federally funded successor entity.
- 2) Requires the CDE, on or before July 1, 2027, to develop and post on its website, a template model of the poster described in #1 above for use by LEAs.
- 3) Defines the following terms:
  - a) “Local educational agency” means a school district, COE, or charter school maintaining any combination of grades 7 to 12, inclusive.
  - b) “Schoolsite” means a school serving any combination of grades 7 to 12, inclusive, maintained by an LEA.
  - c) “Sextortion” means 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.

## Comments

*Need for the bill.* According to the author, “Our children are facing a digital crisis where “sexortion” 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?* Sextortion, as defined in this bill and existing statute, is 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.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) maintains an information and resource page specifically focusing on sextortion that targets children and teens. There, they note the following:

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 prevent them from asking for help or reporting the abuse.

The FBI also notes the following about financial sextortion:

Financial sextortion is different from traditional sextortion. 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.

*Other efforts to encourage sextortion awareness.* In 2024, the Legislature passed AB 2932 (Joe Patterson, Chapter 118, Statutes of 2024), requiring the IQC to consider incorporating content on sextortion during its next revision of the Health Education Curriculum Framework (Framework), or before. While the Framework has not been revised since the passage of that bill, the most recent Framework adopted in 2019 includes discussions that help students understand that sexually explicit photographs that students take of themselves and send to other students can sometimes be used as blackmail to force or coerce victims into sex trafficking.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: Yes

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- This bill could result in one-time Proposition 98 General Fund costs in the low hundreds of thousands of dollars for schools serving students in grades seven through 12, to post a sextortion information poster in their bathrooms. This estimate assumes there are about 3,000 schoolsites that would be impacted and a cost of \$50 each to design, print, and post the posters at each schoolsite.
- The costs for the California Department of Education to develop and post a model template on its website are likely to be minor and absorbable within existing resources.

**SUPPORT:** (Verified 8/13/26)

San Diego County District Attorney's Office

**OPPOSITION:** (Verified 8/13/26)

None received

**ASSEMBLY FLOOR:** 76-0, 5/28/26

**AYES:** Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Arambula, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Flora, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Ramos, Ransom,

Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz, Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward, Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO VOTE RECORDED: Jackson, Lee, Quirk-Silva, Celeste Rodriguez

Prepared by: Therresa Austin / ED. / (916) 651-4105  
8/14/26 15:05:13

\*\*\*\* **END** \*\*\*\*