
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

SB 1015 (Strickland) - Crimes: minors

Version: April 9, 2026

Urgency: No

Hearing Date: April 20, 2026

Policy Vote: PUB. S. 6 - 0

Mandate: Yes

Consultant: Bob Franzoia

Bill Summary: SB 1015 would make any adult person who recruits, induces, coerces, or persuades a minor to commit an illegal act against another minor, or to solicit physical harm, sexual conduct, or images of an intimate body part from another minor, or who utilizes a minor as a conduit of communicate to facilitate any such acts is guilty of a crime punishable either as a misdemeanor or a felony. The bill would except from that exclusion cases where the minor has knowingly threatened, intimidated or coerced another minor to engage in any sexual conduct or obtain an image of an intimate body part form another minor, including an image produced by artificial intelligence and depicts the identity of another minor.

Fiscal Impact: Unknown, potentially significant cost pressure to the state funded trial court system (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund) to adjudicate the new crime created by this bill. Certain rights to the defendants are attached to criminal proceedings, including the right to a jury trial and the right to counsel (at public expense if the defendants are unable to afford the costs of representation) and creating new felonies, with increased penalties, could lead to lengthier and more complex court proceedings with attendant workload and resource costs to the court. The fiscal impact of this bill to the courts will depend on many unknown factors, including the numbers of violations alleged to have occurred and the factors unique to each case. An eight-hour court day costs approximately \$10,500. If the bill results in only 12 or more days spent in court, trial court costs could be in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. While the courts are not funded on a workload basis, an increase in workload could result in delayed court services and would put pressure on the General Fund to fund additional staff and resources and to increase the amount appropriated to backfill for trial court operations. The proposed 2026-27 Budget Act proposes \$70 million from the General Fund to backfill the Trial Court Trust Fund to address the continued decline in civil fee and criminal fine and penalty revenues.

Costs (local funds, General Fund) to the counties and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to incarcerate people convicted of this new offense. Actual incarceration costs will depend on the number of convictions, the length of each sentence, and whether each sentence must be served in county jail or state prison. Where a minor was involved, county probation, county health agencies, community based organizations or local educational agency could incur costs.

Background: SB 1015 would make any adult person who recruits, induces, coerces, or persuades a minor to commit an illegal act against another minor, or to solicit physical harm, sexual conduct, or images of an intimate body part from another minor,

or who utilizes a minor as a conduit of communicate to facilitate any such acts is guilty of a crime punishable either as a misdemeanor or a felony.

Related Legislation: Several bills have been introduced or chaptered relating to sexually obscene images:

AB 1831 (Berman) Chapter 926, Statutes of 2024 creates a new felony for any person that possesses or controls any matter generated using artificial intelligence (AI), which depicts any person under the age 18 engaging in or simulating sexual conduct.

AB 1962 (Berman) Chapter 367, Statutes of 2024 would expand the crime of revenge porn, as specified.

AB 1872 (Sanchez) 2024 would expand the definition of “fear” in the extortion statute to include any threat to post, distribute, or create AI-generated images or videos of another. AB 1872 was held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File.

AB 355 (Sanchez) 2025 would expand the crime of extortion to include fear based on a threat to post, distribute, or create videos generated by artificial intelligence (AI). AB 355 was held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File

AB 1856 (Ta) 2024 would create a new crime of intentionally distributing or causing to be distributed a deepfake of an intimate body part of an identifiable person. AB 1856 was held on the Senate Appropriations Committee Suspense File.

SB 933 (Wahab) would specify that computer-generated images, for purposes of statutes that criminalize child pornography, include images generated through the use of AI. SB 933 was held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee Suspense File.

SB 926 (Wahab) Chapter 289, Statutes of 2024 would expand California’s “revenge porn” laws to include nonconsensual deepfake pornography.

SB 981 (Wahab) Chapter 292, Statutes of 2024 would require social media platforms to provide a mechanism for reporting “digital identity theft,” essentially the posting of nonconsensual, sexual deepfakes; and requires platforms to timely respond and investigate and to block instances of this material, as provided.