

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**  
**BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H1626

**TITLE:** An act preventing rampant online technological exploitation and criminal trafficking

**SPONSOR:** Rep. Manny Cruz

**CO-SPONSOR(S):** Rep. Judith A. Garcia

**HEARING DATE:** June 10, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** H3818 (2023-2024)

**SENATE BILL:** None

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 28 of Chapter 272 of the General Laws prohibits the purposeful dissemination or possession with intent to disseminate any matter harmful to minors to a person known or believed to be a minor punished by up to 5 years in state prison or up to 2.5 years in jail or fine of \$1,000 - \$10,000, or both fine and imprisonment. Defenses to prosecution are: (i) the defendant was in a parental or guardianship relationship with the minor; or (ii) the defendant was a bona fide school, museum or library employee acting in the course of their employment of such organization or of a retail outlet affiliated with and serving the educational purposes of such organization.

**BILL SUMMARY:** Section 1 – Adds a new Chapter, 93M, to the General Laws prohibiting the operators of pornographic websites from knowingly allowing a user to upload sexually explicit content unless the user has submitted: (i) a statement signed under penalty of perjury that the individual is at least 18 years old and has consented to the sexually explicit content being uploaded; and (ii) information to allow the operator to contact the user seeking to upload the content. Any operator who knowingly uploads material harmful to minors on a pornographic website must verify the user seeking to access the content is at least 18 through commercially available and reasonable method of age and identity verification. An operator who violates this is subject to civil liability and reasonable attorney fees and costs.

Section 2 - Requires the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the Department of Higher Education to create a public awareness campaign.