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SFA**BILL ANALYSIS**

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Senate Bill 785 (as introduced 11-4-97)
Sponsor: Senator George Z. Hart
Committee: Judiciary

Date Completed: 2-3-98

CONTENT

The bill would amend the Michigan Penal Code to prohibit the use of the internet to facilitate any part of the following:

- Committing, attempting to commit, conspiring to commit, or soliciting another to commit any of the following crimes, when the victim or intended victim was a minor: involvement in child sexually abusive activity or material (MCL 750.145c); kidnapping (MCL 750.349); first-, second-, third-, or fourth-degree criminal sexual conduct (CSC) (MCL 750.520b-750.520e); or assault with intent to commit CSC (MCL 750.520g).
- Committing, attempting to commit, conspiring to commit, or soliciting another to commit kidnapping of a child under the age of 14 (MCL 750.350) or parental kidnapping (MCL 750.350a).
- Committing or attempting to commit solicitation of a child for immoral purposes (MCL 750.145a) or recruitment or inducement of a minor to commit a felony (MCL 750.157c).

A violation of the bill would be felony. A first offense would be punishable by up to two years' imprisonment, a maximum fine of \$2,000, or both. A second or subsequent offense would be punishable by up to five years' imprisonment, a maximum fine of \$5,000, or both. A term of imprisonment imposed for a violation of the bill could be served consecutively to and preceding any term of imprisonment imposed for the underlying offense.

The bill specifies that it would not prohibit a person from being charged with, convicted of, or punished for any other violation of law committed while violating the bill, including the underlying offense.

Under the bill, "internet" would mean a worldwide interconnection of individual computers and computer networks and the equipment and facilities used to gain access to those interconnected networks. "Minor" would mean a person who was under 18 years of age.

Proposed MCL 750.145d

Legislative Analyst: P. Affholter

FISCAL IMPACT

Senate Bill 785 would result in an indeterminate, yet potential additional cost for State and local government. In 1996, about 2,200 criminal dispositions involved Sections 145c, 349, 520b-520e, or 520g of the Penal Code dealing with child abusive commercial activity, kidnapping, or criminal sexual conduct. Of the 2,200 criminal dispositions, half were sentenced to prison and half received jail, probation, or other sanctions. It is unknown how many of the victims were minors or how many

offenders used the internet to facilitate the crime. Additionally, in 1996, three criminal dispositions involved Section 157c of the Penal Code dealing with soliciting a minor to commit a crime. It appears that no criminal dispositions involved Sections 350, 350a or 145a of the Penal Code dealing with child kidnapping and enticement.

Given that the average annual cost of incarcerating a prisoner is about \$18,000, and that under current practice, an offender with a two-year maximum sentence spends about 16 months in prison, the penalty for conviction under the proposed legislation would increase prison costs by about \$24,000. The prison term for a second or subsequent offense, under current practice, would be about 40 months, at a cost of \$60,000. Although there is no way of knowing how many of the 1996 criminal dispositions involved minors and Internet facilitation, if one assumed that 5% of the 1996 criminal dispositions with prison terms involved minors, internet facilitation, and consecutive sentences, and that half were second or subsequent offenses, prison term costs could increase by \$2,310,000 in the long run.

Fiscal Analyst: K. Firestone

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