

**SB203 ENGROSSED**



1 SB203  
2 ZQPI8KW-2  
3 By Senators Figures, Chambliss, Hatcher, Coleman, Singleton,  
4 Stewart, Bell, Kelley, Chesteen, Price, Williams, Weaver,  
5 Elliott, Hovey, Waggoner, Kitchens, Carnley, Givhan, Melson,  
6 Sessions, Jones, Smitherman, Woods, Beasley, Livingston,  
7 Butler, Gudger, Stutts, Allen, Roberts, Albritton  
8 RFD: Judiciary  
9 First Read: 21-Jan-26



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A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to criminal law and procedure; to amend Sections 13A-6-43, 13A-6-44, 13A-6-68, 13A-6-111, 13A-6-124, and 13A-6-243, Code of Alabama 1975, to further provide for the affirmative defenses to offenses of kidnapping in the first and second degrees; to expand the offenses of indecent exposure, directing a child to engage in sexual intercourse or sodomy, traveling to meet a child for an unlawful sex act, and directing a child to engage in sexual contact to include additional child victims; to further provide for the offense of transmitting obscene material to a child by computer to specify that the offense may be consummated if undercover agents are involved; to amend Sections 15-20A-5 and 15-25-31, Code of Alabama 1975, to further define the term "sex offense" to include voyeurism; to further provide for the admissibility of out-of-court statements made by children; to establish the crime of inpatient custodial sexual misconduct and provide criminal penalties for a violation; to amend Section 12-21-148, Code of Alabama 1975, to further provide for the use of a certified facility dog in court proceedings; to amend Sections 15-20A-6 and 15-20A-44, Code of Alabama 1975, to make



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conforming changes; to amend Sections 26-14-3, Code of Alabama 1975, to further provide for the circumstances when a mandatory reporter must submit a report to a duly constituted authority; to further provide for the timeline of submitting reports; to provide an enhanced penalty for subsequent violations; to further provide for the commencement of prosecution; and to make nonsubstantive, technical revisions to update the existing code language to current style.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. Sections 13A-6-43, 13A-6-44, 13A-6-68, 13A-6-111, 13A-6-124, and 13A-6-243, Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

"§13A-6-43

(a) A person commits the crime of kidnapping in the first degree if he or she abducts another person with intent to do any of the following:

(1) Hold him or her for ransom or reward; ~~or.~~

(2) Use him or her as a shield or hostage; ~~or.~~

(3) Accomplish or aid the commission of any felony or flight therefrom; ~~or.~~

(4) Inflict physical injury upon him or her, or to violate or abuse him or her sexually; ~~or.~~

(5) Terrorize him or her or a third person; ~~or.~~

(6) Interfere with the performance of any governmental or political function.

~~(b) A person does not commit the crime of kidnapping in the first degree if he voluntarily releases the victim alive, and not suffering from serious physical injury, in a safe~~



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~~place prior to apprehension. The burden of injecting the issue of voluntary safe release is on the defendant, but this does not shift the burden of proof. This subsection does not apply to a prosecution for or preclude a conviction of kidnapping in the second degree or any other crime.~~

~~(e)~~ (b) Kidnapping in the first degree is a Class A felony."

"§13A-6-44

(a) A person commits the crime of kidnapping in the second degree if he or she abducts another person using, or with the intent to use, deception, physical force, or deadly physical force.

~~(b) A person does not commit a crime under this section if:~~

~~(1) The abduction is not coupled with intent to use or to threaten to use deadly force,~~

~~(2) The actor is a relative of the person abducted, and~~

~~(3) The~~ (b) (1) It is an affirmative defense to a violation of this section if the actor's sole purpose is to assume lawful control of that person.

(2) The burden of injecting the issue of defense under this subsection is on the defendant, but this does not shift the burden of proof.

(c) Kidnapping in the second degree is a Class B felony."

"§13A-6-68

(a) A person commits the crime of indecent exposure if, with intent to arouse or gratify sexual desire of himself or



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85 herself, ~~or of any person other than his or her spouse,~~ he or  
86 she exposes his or her genitals under circumstances in which  
87 he or she knows the conduct is likely to cause affront or  
88 alarm.

89 (b) (1) Indecent exposure is a Class A misdemeanor  
90 ~~except a third or subsequent conviction shall be.~~

91 (2) Notwithstanding subdivision (1), indecent exposure  
92 is a Class C felony under either of the following  
93 circumstances:

94 a. If any victim of the offense is under 12 years of  
95 age.

96 b. If the person has two or more prior convictions  
97 under this article."

98 "§13A-6-111

99 (a) A person is guilty of transmitting obscene material  
100 to a child if the person transmits to a child, or another  
101 person believed by the defendant to be a child, by means of  
102 any cellular device, online application, computer  
103 communication system allowing the input, output, examination,  
104 or transfer of computer programs from one computer to another,  
105 or any other electronic means, material which, in whole or in  
106 part, depicts actual or simulated nudity, sexual conduct, or  
107 sadomasochistic abuse, for the purpose of initiating or  
108 engaging in ~~sexual acts~~ sexual conduct pursuant to Section  
109 13A-12-200.1, sexual performance, or a sex offense pursuant to  
110 Section 15-20A-5 with the child.

111 (b) For the purposes of this section, a "child"  
112 includes any person under 17 years of age.



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(c) For purposes of determining jurisdiction, the offense is committed in this state if the transmission that constitutes the offense either originates in this state or is received in this state and shall be considered to be committed in any county in which any part of the crime took place or in the county of residence of the victim or defendant.

(d) A person charged under this section shall be tried as an adult and the record of the proceeding shall not be sealed nor subject to expungement.

(e) It shall not be a defense to prosecution under this section that an undercover operative or law enforcement officer was involved in the detection and investigation of an offense.

~~(f) (e) Transmitting obscene material of engaging in sexual intercourse, sodomy, or to engage in a sexual performance, obscene sexual performance, or sexual conduct for his or her benefit to a child~~ A violation of this section is a Class B felony."

"§13A-6-124

(a) Any person who travels either within this state, to this state, or from this state by any means, who attempts to do so, or who knowingly causes another to do so or to attempt to do so for the purpose of engaging in any unlawful sex act with a child, or another person believed by the defendant to be a child, including sexual intercourse, sodomy, a sexual conduct pursuant to Section 13A-12-200.1, sexual performance, obscene sexual performance, or other sexual conduct or a sex offense pursuant to Section 15-20A-5 for his or her benefit or



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for the benefit of another shall be guilty of traveling to meet a child for an unlawful sex act.

(b) Any person who violates this section commits a Class A felony. ~~Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a conviction under this section shall be considered a criminal sex offense under Section 15-20-21."~~

"§13A-6-243

(a) (1) A person commits the crime of directing a child to engage in sexual intercourse or sodomy if he or she knowingly entices, allures, persuades, induces, or directs any ~~person under the age of 12 years~~ of the following to engage in sexual intercourse or sodomy with another person:

a. A child under 12 years of age.

b. A child 12 or more years of age, but less than 16 years of age, provided the child is two or more years younger than the other person.

(2) Directing a child to engage in sexual intercourse or sodomy is a Class A felony.

(b) (1) A person commits the crime of directing a child to engage in sexual contact if he or she knowingly entices, allures, persuades, induces, or directs any ~~person under the age of 12 years~~ of the following to engage in sexual contact with another person:

a. A child under 12 years of age.

b. A child 12 or more years of age, but less than 16 years of age, provided the child is two or more years younger than the other person.

(2) ~~A violation of this section~~ Directing a child to



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169 engage in sexual contact is a Class B felony."

170           Section 2. It shall not be a defense to prosecution  
171 under Article 6 of Chapter 6 of Title 13A, Code of Alabama  
172 1975, that an undercover operative or law enforcement officer  
173 was involved in the detection and investigation of an offense.

174           Section 3. Sections 15-20A-5 and 15-25-31, Code of  
175 Alabama 1975, are amended to read as follows:

176           "§15-20A-5

177           For the purposes of this chapter, a sex offense  
178 includes any of the following offenses:

179           (1) Rape in the first degree, as provided by Section  
180 13A-6-61.

181           (2) Rape in the second degree, as provided by Section  
182 13A-6-62. A juvenile sex offender adjudicated delinquent of a  
183 violation of rape in the second degree is presumed to be  
184 exempt from this chapter after the juvenile has been counseled  
185 on the dangers of the conduct for which he or she was  
186 adjudicated delinquent unless the sentencing court makes a  
187 determination that the juvenile sex offender is to be subject  
188 to this chapter.

189           (3) Sodomy in the first degree, as provided by Section  
190 13A-6-63.

191           (4) Sodomy in the second degree, as provided by Section  
192 13A-6-64. A juvenile sex offender adjudicated delinquent of a  
193 violation of sodomy in the second degree is presumed to be  
194 exempt from this chapter after the juvenile has been counseled  
195 on the dangers of the conduct for which he or she was  
196 adjudicated delinquent unless the sentencing court makes a





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determination that the juvenile sex offender is to be subject to this chapter.

(5) Sexual misconduct, as provided by Section 13A-6-65, provided that on a first conviction or adjudication the sex offender is only subject to registration and verification pursuant to this chapter. On a second or subsequent conviction or adjudication of a sex offense, if the second or subsequent conviction or adjudication does not arise out of the same set of facts and circumstances as the first conviction or adjudication of a sex offense, the sex offender shall comply with all requirements of this chapter. A juvenile sex offender adjudicated delinquent of a violation of sexual misconduct is presumed to be exempt from this chapter after the juvenile has been counseled on the dangers of the conduct for which he or she was adjudicated delinquent unless the sentencing court makes a determination that the juvenile sex offender is to be subject to this chapter.

(6) Sexual torture, as provided by Section 13A-6-65.1.

(7) Sexual abuse in the first degree, as provided by Section 13A-6-66.

(8) Sexual abuse in the second degree, as provided by Section 13A-6-67.

(9) Indecent exposure, as provided by Section 13A-6-68, provided that on a first conviction or adjudication of a sex offense, the sex offender is only subject to registration and verification pursuant to this chapter. On a second or subsequent conviction or adjudication of a sex offense, if the second or subsequent conviction or adjudication does not arise



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out of the same set of facts and circumstances as the first conviction or adjudication, the sex offender shall comply with all requirements of this chapter. A juvenile sex offender adjudicated of a violation of indecent exposure is presumed to be exempt from this chapter after the juvenile has been counseled on the dangers of the conduct for which he or she was adjudicated delinquent unless the sentencing court makes a determination that the juvenile sex offender is to be subject to this chapter.

(10) Enticing a child to enter a vehicle, room, house, office, or other place for immoral purposes, as provided by Section 13A-6-69.

(11) Sexual abuse of a child less than 12 years old, as provided by Section 13A-6-69.1.

(12) Promoting prostitution in the first degree, as provided by Section 13A-12-111.

(13) Promoting prostitution in the second degree, as provided by Section 13A-12-112.

(14) Violation of the Alabama Child Pornography Act, as provided by Section 13A-12-191, 13A-12-192, 13A-12-196, or 13A-12-197. A juvenile sex offender adjudicated delinquent of a violation of the Alabama Child Pornography Act is presumed to be exempt from this chapter after the juvenile has been counseled on the dangers of the conduct for which he or she was adjudicated delinquent unless the sentencing court makes a determination that the juvenile sex offender is to be subject to this chapter.

(15) Unlawful imprisonment in the first degree, as



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provided by Section 13A-6-41, if the victim of the offense is a minor, and the record of adjudication or conviction reflects the intent of the unlawful imprisonment was to abuse the minor sexually.

(16) Unlawful imprisonment in the second degree, as provided by Section 13A-6-42, if the victim of the offense is a minor, and the record of adjudication or conviction reflects the intent of the unlawful imprisonment was to abuse the minor sexually.

(17) Kidnapping in the first degree, as provided by subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of Section 13A-6-43, if the intent of the abduction is to violate or abuse the victim sexually.

(18) Kidnapping of a minor, except by a parent, guardian, or custodian, as provided by Section 13A-6-43 or 13A-6-44.

(19) Incest, as provided by Section 13A-13-3.

(20) Transmitting obscene material to a child by computer, as provided by Section 13A-6-111.

(21) School employee engaging in a sex act or deviant sexual intercourse with a student, or having sexual contact or soliciting a sex act or sexual contact with a student, as provided by Sections 13A-6-81 and 13A-6-82.

(22) Foster parent engaging in a sex act, having sexual contact, or soliciting a sex act or sexual contact with a foster child, as provided by Section 13A-6-71.

(23) Facilitating solicitation of unlawful sexual conduct with a child, as provided by Section 13A-6-121.



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(24) Electronic solicitation of a child, as provided by Section 13A-6-122.

(25) Facilitating the on-line solicitation of a child, as provided by Section 13A-6-123.

(26) Traveling to meet a child for an unlawful sex act, as provided by Section 13A-6-124.

(27) Facilitating the travel of a child for an unlawful sex act, as provided by Section 13A-6-125.

(28) Human trafficking in the first degree, as provided by Section 13A-6-152, provided that the offense involves sexual servitude.

(29) Human trafficking in the second degree, as provided by Section 13A-6-153, provided that the offense involves sexual servitude.

(30) Custodial sexual misconduct, as provided by Section 14-11-31.

(31) Sexual extortion, as provided by Section 13A-6-241.

(32) Directing a child to engage in a sex act, as provided in Section 13A-6-243.

(33) Voyeurism in the first degree, as provided in Section 13A-11-41.

~~(33)~~ (34) Any offense which is the same as or equivalent to any offense set forth above as the same existed and was defined under the laws of this state existing at the time of such conviction, specifically including, but not limited to, crime against nature, as provided by Section 13-1-110; rape, as provided by Sections 13-1-130 and 13-1-131; carnal



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knowledge of a woman or girl, as provided by Sections 13-1-132 through 13-1-135, or attempting to do so, as provided by Section 13-1-136; indecent molestation of children, as defined and provided by Section 13-1-113; indecent exposure, as provided by Section 13-1-111; incest, as provided by Section 13-8-3; offenses relative to obscene prints and literature, as provided by Sections 13-7-160 through 13-7-175, inclusive; employing, harboring, procuring or using a girl over 10 and under 18 years of age for the purpose of prostitution or sexual intercourse, as provided by Section 13-7-1; seduction, as defined and provided by Section 13-1-112; a male person peeping into a room occupied by a female, as provided by Section 13-6-6; assault with intent to ravish, as provided by Section 13-1-46; and soliciting a child by computer, as provided by Section 13A-6-110.

~~(34)~~(35) Any solicitation, attempt, or conspiracy to commit any of the offenses listed in subdivisions (1) to ~~(33)~~(34), inclusive.

~~(35)~~(36) Any crime committed in Alabama or any other state, the District of Columbia, any United States territory, or a federal, military, Indian, or foreign country jurisdiction which, if it had been committed in this state under the current provisions of law, would constitute an offense listed in subdivisions (1) to ~~(34)~~(35), inclusive.

~~(36)~~(37) Any offense specified by Title I of the federal Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006 (Pub. L. 109-248, the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act (SORNA)).



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~~(37)~~(38) Any crime committed in another state, the District of Columbia, any United States territory, or a federal, military, Indian, or foreign country jurisdiction if that jurisdiction also requires that anyone convicted of that crime register as a sex offender in that jurisdiction.

~~(38)~~(39) Any offender determined in any jurisdiction to be a sex offender shall be considered a sex offender in this state.

~~(39)~~(40) The foregoing notwithstanding, any crime committed in any jurisdiction which, irrespective of the specific description or statutory elements thereof, is in any way characterized or known as rape, carnal knowledge, sodomy, sexual assault, sexual battery, criminal sexual conduct, criminal sexual contact, sexual abuse, continuous sexual abuse, sexual torture, solicitation of a child, enticing or luring a child, child pornography, lewd and lascivious conduct, taking indecent liberties with a child, molestation of a child, criminal sexual misconduct, video voyeurism, or there has been a finding of sexual motivation.

~~(40)~~(41) Any crime not listed in this section wherein the underlying felony is an element of the offense and listed in subdivisions (1) to ~~(39)~~(40), inclusive.

~~(41)~~(42) Any other offense not provided for in this section wherein there is a finding of sexual motivation as provided by Section 15-20A-6."

"§15-25-31

An out-of-court statement made by a witness or a victim who is a child under ~~12~~18 years of age at the time the



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statement is made, or by a protected person as defined in Section 15-25-1, concerning an act that is a material element of any crime involving a physical offense, sexual offense, or violent offense, as defined in Section 15-25-39, which statement is not otherwise admissible in evidence, is admissible in evidence in ~~criminal~~any court proceedings, if the requirements of Section 15-25-32 are met. "

Section 4. (a) As used in this section, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) EMPLOYEE. Any individual who is an employee, contractual employee, or volunteer at an inpatient or residential drug rehabilitation or mental health facility and who has the responsibility for the care, treatment, control, or supervision of patients in the facility.

(2) SEXUAL CONDUCT. The term as defined in Section 14-11-30, Code of Alabama 1975.

(b) A person commits the crime of inpatient custodial sexual misconduct if the person is an employee and solicits or engages in sexual conduct with any other person who is a patient in or committed to an inpatient or residential drug rehabilitation or mental health facility.

(c) A violation of this section is a Class C felony.

(d) (1) It is the public policy of the state to prohibit without exception all inpatient and residential custodial sexual misconduct.

(2) For purposes of prosecution under this section, consent is not a defense and the issue of whether a patient in an inpatient or residential drug rehabilitation or mental



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health facility consented to any sexual conduct is immaterial.

Section 5. Sections 12-21-148, 15-20A-6, and 15-20A-44, Code of Alabama 1975, are amended to make conforming changes as follows:

"§12-21-148

(a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms ~~shall~~ have the following meanings:

(1) CERTIFIED FACILITY DOG. A trained working dog that is a graduate of an assistance dog organization, a nonprofit organization that sets standards of training for the health, welfare, task work, and oversight for assistance dogs and their handlers, and shall have at a minimum all of the following:

a. Two years of training and must have passed the same public-access test as a service dog.

b. Documentation showing that the certified facility dog has graduated from an assistance dog organization.

c. A current annual certificate of health from an Alabama veterinarian.

d. Proof of liability insurance in the minimum amount of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000).

(2) CERTIFIED HANDLER. A certified handler who has received training from an assistance dog organization and has received training on the protocols and policies of legal proceedings and the role of the certified facility dog and certified handler to assure there is no interference with the collection of evidence and testimony, or the administration of justice.





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(b) In a legal proceeding, to reduce the stress of a witness and to enhance the ability of the court to obtain full and accurate testimony, the court may allow a certified facility dog to accompany a victim or witness while testifying, or in other court proceedings, if a certified facility dog is available.

(c) If the court, in its sole discretion, grants the use of a certified facility dog, and a jury has been empaneled in the legal proceeding, the certified facility dog shall be accompanied by the certified handler to the witness stand with the witness outside of the presence of the jury, and the certified handler shall return to his or her position in the courtroom within view of the witness stand. Subsequently, the jury shall be seated and the court shall instruct the jury on the presence of the certified facility dog and that the presence of a certified facility dog should not create any prejudice to any party.

(d) During trial proceedings, all precautions should be taken to obscure the presence of the dog from the jury.

(e) Markings identifying the dog as a certified facility dog while working must be visible.

(f) Subject to the Alabama Rules of Criminal Procedure, if requested by either party in a legal proceeding, the court may examine and confirm the credentials of the certified facility dog and certified handler.

(g) Prior to the use of a certified facility dog in a court proceeding, the state or moving party must file a notice of intent to use the ~~registered therapy~~ certified facility



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449 dog."

450 "§15-20A-6

451 (a) (1) The indictment, count in the indictment,  
452 information, complaint, or warrant charging the offense may  
453 include a specification of sexual motivation or the  
454 prosecuting attorney may file an allegation of sexual  
455 motivation in any criminal case classified as a felony or  
456 Class A misdemeanor if sufficient admissible evidence exists  
457 that would justify a finding of sexual motivation by a  
458 reasonable and objective finder of fact.

459 (2) If a specification is included in the indictment,  
460 count in the indictment, information, complaint, or warrant  
461 charging the offense, the specification shall be stated at the  
462 end of the body of the indictment, count in the indictment,  
463 information, complaint, or warrant and shall be in  
464 substantially the following form: "SPECIFICATION or  
465 SPECIFICATION TO THE FIRST COUNT. The Grand Jurors (or insert  
466 appropriate name) further find and specify that the offender  
467 committed the offense with a sexual motivation."

468 (3) If the prosecuting attorney files an allegation of  
469 sexual motivation, it shall be filed within a reasonable time  
470 after indictment to give sufficient notice to the defendant.

471 (b) If the indictment, count of the indictment,  
472 information, complaint, or warrant charging the offense  
473 includes a specification of sexual motivation or if the  
474 prosecuting attorney files an allegation of sexual motivation,  
475 the state shall prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the  
476 defendant committed the offense with a sexual motivation.



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(c) The court shall make a written finding of fact, to be made part of the record upon conviction or adjudication as a youthful offender, of whether or not a sexual motivation was present at the time of the commission of the offense unless the defendant has a trial by jury.

(d) If a defendant has a trial by jury, the jury, if it finds the defendant guilty, shall also find a special verdict as to whether or not the defendant committed the crime with a sexual motivation.

(e) If there is a finding of sexual motivation, the finding shall be made part of the record of conviction or adjudication.

(f) For purposes of this section, sexual motivation means that one of the purposes for which the defendant committed the crime was for the purpose of the sexual gratification of the defendant.

(g) This section shall not apply to sex offenses as defined in subdivisions (1) to ~~(40)~~(41), inclusive, of Section 15-20A-5."

"§15-20A-44

(a) The Secretary of the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency shall adopt rules establishing an administrative hearing for persons who are only made subject to this chapter pursuant to subdivision ~~(35)~~(36) of Section 15-20A-5.

(b) The Secretary of the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency shall adopt rules setting forth a listing of offenses from other jurisdictions that are to be considered criminal sex offenses under subdivision ~~(35)~~(36) of Section 15-20A-5.



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Thereafter, any individual convicted of any offense set forth in the listing shall immediately be subject to this chapter and shall not be entitled to an administrative hearing as provided in subsection (a).

(c) The Secretary of the Alabama State Law Enforcement Agency may adopt any rules as are necessary to implement and enforce this chapter."

Section 6. Section 26-14-3, Code of Alabama 1975, is amended to read as follows:

"§26-14-3

~~(a) All hospitals, clinics, sanitariums, doctors, physicians, surgeons, medical examiners, coroners, dentists, osteopaths, optometrists, chiropractors, podiatrists, physical therapists, nurses, public and private K-12 employees, school teachers and officials, peace officers, law enforcement officials, pharmacists, social workers, day care workers or employees, mental health professionals, employees of public and private institutions of postsecondary and higher education, members of the clergy as defined in Rule 505 of the Alabama Rules of Evidence, or any other person called upon to render aid or medical assistance to any child, when the child is known or suspected to be a victim of child abuse or neglect, shall be required to report orally, either by telephone or direct communication immediately, and shall be followed by a written report, to a duly constituted authority.~~ (1) An individual or entity identified in subdivision (2) shall submit an oral report to a law



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enforcement official or the Department of Human Resources immediately upon knowing or suspecting that a child is a victim of child abuse or neglect, receiving a report from a third party that a child is or is suspected of being a victim of child abuse or neglect, or obtaining any other information that would lead a reasonable person to believe or suspect that a child is a victim of child abuse or neglect. The individual or entity shall submit an additional written report to the official or department within 72 hours of the oral report.

(2) All of the following are subject to the requirements of subdivision (1):

- a. A hospital.
- b. A clinic.
- c. A sanitarium.
- d. A doctor.
- e. A physician.
- f. A surgeon.
- g. A medical examiner.
- h. A coroner.
- i. A dentist.
- j. An osteopath.
- k. An optometrist.
- l. A chiropractor.
- m. A podiatrist.
- n. A physical therapist.
- o. A nurse.
- p. A public or private K-12 school employee.
- q. A school teacher.



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r. A school official.

s. A peace officer.

t. A law enforcement official.

u. A pharmacist.

v. A social worker.

w. A day care worker or employee.

x. A mental health professional.

y. An employee of a public or private institution of postsecondary or higher education.

z. A member of the clergy as defined in Rule 505 of the Alabama Rules of Evidence.

aa. Any other person called upon to render aid or medical assistance to any child.

(b) (1) ~~When an initial~~ Immediately upon the receipt of  
a report is made to a law enforcement official pursuant to  
subsection (a), the law enforcement official subsequently  
shall inform the Department of Human Resources of the report  
so that the department can carry out its responsibility to  
provide protective services when deemed appropriate to the  
respective child or children.

(2) As soon as is practicable after the receipt of a  
~~report of known or suspected child abuse or neglect is made~~  
pursuant to subsection (a), the Department of Human Resources  
shall make efforts to determine the military status of the  
parent or guardian of the child who is the subject of the  
child abuse or neglect allegation.

(3) If the Department of Human Resources determines  
that a parent or guardian under subdivision (2) is in the



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military, the department shall notify a United States Department of Defense family advocacy program at ~~the military installation of the parent or guardian~~guardian's military installation that there is an allegation of child abuse or neglect that is being investigated ~~that~~which involves a child of the military parent or guardian.

(c) When the Department of Human Resources receives initial reports of suspected abuse or neglect, ~~as defined in Section 26-14-1,~~ including suspected abuse or neglect involving discipline or corporal punishment committed in a public or private school or suspected abuse or neglect in a state-operated child residential facility, the Department of Human Resources shall transmit a copy of school reports ~~to the law enforcement agency and~~ or residential facility reports to the law enforcement agency and the operating state agency which shall conduct the investigation. When the investigation is completed, a written report of the completed investigation ~~shall contain~~containing the information required by the ~~state~~State Department of Human Resources ~~which shall be~~ submitted by the law enforcement agency or the state agency to the county department of human resources for entry into the state's central registry.

(d) Nothing in this chapter shall preclude interagency agreements between departments of human resources, law enforcement, ~~and~~or any other state agencies on procedures for investigating reports of suspected child abuse and neglect to provide for departments of human resources to assist law enforcement ~~and~~or other state agencies in these



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617 investigations.

618 ~~(e) Any provision of this section to the contrary~~  
619 ~~notwithstanding, if any agency or authority investigates any~~  
620 ~~report pursuant to this section and the report does not result~~  
621 ~~in a conviction, the agency or authority shall expunge any~~  
622 ~~record of the information or report and any data developed~~  
623 ~~from the record.~~

624 ~~(f)~~ (e) Subsection (a) to the contrary notwithstanding,  
625 a member of the clergy shall not be required to report  
626 information gained solely in a confidential communication  
627 privileged pursuant to Rule 505 of the Alabama Rules of  
628 Evidence, ~~which~~ and the communication shall continue to be  
629 privileged as provided by law.

630 ~~(g)~~ (f) (1) Commencing on August 1, 2013, a public or  
631 private employer who discharges, suspends, disciplines, or  
632 penalizes an employee solely for reporting suspected child  
633 abuse or neglect pursuant to this section shall be guilty of a  
634 Class C misdemeanor.

635 (2) A violation of subdivision (1) following a previous  
636 conviction for a violation of subdivision (1) shall be a Class  
637 C felony.

638 (g) (1) A misdemeanor prosecution for a violation of  
639 this section must be commenced within 12 months after the  
640 violation was first reported to a law enforcement agency.

641 (2) A felony prosecution for a violation of this  
642 section must be commenced within five years after the  
643 violation was first reported to a law enforcement agency."

644 Section 7. This act shall become effective on October





## SB203 Engrossed

645 1, 2026.



**SB203 Engrossed**

646  
647  
648 Senate

649 Read for the first time and referred .....21-Jan-26  
650 to the Senate committee on Judiciary

651  
652 Read for the second time and placed .....29-Jan-26  
653 on the calendar:  
654 0 amendments

655  
656 Read for the third time and passed .....05-Feb-26  
657 as amended

658 Yeas 34  
659 Nays 0  
660 Abstains 0

661  
662  
663 Patrick Harris,  
664 Secretary.  
665