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**HOUSE BILL 1165**

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**State of Washington 68th Legislature 2023 Regular Session**

**By** Representatives Orwall, Reeves, Wylie, and Davis; by request of Uniform Law Commission

AN ACT Relating to civil remedies for unauthorized disclosure of intimate images; adding a new chapter to Title 7 RCW; creating a new section; repealing RCW 4.24.795; and prescribing penalties.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  This act may be known and cited as the uniform civil remedies for unauthorized disclosure of intimate images act.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  The definitions in this section apply throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

(1) "Consent" means affirmative, conscious, and voluntary authorization by an individual with legal capacity to give authorization.

(2) "Depicted individual" means an individual whose body is shown in whole or in part in an intimate image.

(3) "Disclosing" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 9A.86.010. "Disclosure" has the same meaning as "disclosing."

(4) "Identifiable" means recognizable by a person other than the depicted individual:

(a) From an intimate image itself; or

(b) From an intimate image and identifying characteristic displayed in connection with the intimate image.

(5) "Identifying characteristic" means information that may be used to identify a depicted individual.

(6) "Individual" means a human being.

(7) "Intimate image" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 9A.86.010.

(8) "Person" means an individual, estate, business or nonprofit entity, public corporation, government or governmental subdivision, agency or instrumentality, or other legal entity.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  (1) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Harm" includes physical harm, economic harm, and emotional distress whether or not accompanied by physical or economic harm.

(b) "Private" means:

(i) Created or obtained under circumstances in which a depicted individual had a reasonable expectation of privacy; or

(ii) Made accessible through theft, bribery, extortion, fraud, false pretenses, voyeurism, or exceeding authorized access to an account, message, file, device, resource, or property.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in section 4 of this act, a depicted individual who is identifiable and who suffers harm from a person's intentional disclosure or threatened disclosure of an intimate image that was private without the depicted individual's consent has a cause of action against the person if the person knew or acted with reckless disregard for whether:

(a) The depicted individual did not consent to the disclosure;

(b) The intimate image was private; and

(c) The depicted individual was identifiable.

(3) The following conduct by a depicted individual does not establish by itself that the individual consented to the disclosure of the intimate image which is the subject of an action under this act or that the individual lacked a reasonable expectation of privacy:

(a) Consent to creation of the image; or

(b) Previous consensual disclosure of the image.

(4) A depicted individual who does not consent to the uncovering of the part of the body depicted in an intimate image of the individual retains a reasonable expectation of privacy even if the image was created when the individual was in a public place.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  (1) For the purposes of this section:

(a) "Child" means an unemancipated individual who is less than 18 years of age.

(b) "Parent" has the same meaning as provided in RCW 26.26A.010.

(2) A person is not liable under this act if the person proves that disclosure of, or a threat to disclose, an intimate image was:

(a) Made in good faith in:

(i) Law enforcement;

(ii) A legal proceeding; or

(iii) Medical education or treatment;

(b) Made in good faith in the reporting or investigation of:

(i) Unlawful conduct; or

(ii) Unsolicited and unwelcome conduct;

(c) Related to a matter of public concern or public interest; or

(d) Reasonably intended to assist the depicted individual.

(3) Subject to subsection (4) of this section, a defendant who is a parent, legal guardian, or individual with legal custody of a child is not liable under this act for a disclosure or threatened disclosure of an intimate image, as defined in section 2(7) of this act, of the child.

(4) If a defendant asserts an exception to liability under subsection (3) of this section, the exception does not apply if the plaintiff proves the disclosure was:

(a) Prohibited by law other than this act; or

(b) Made for the purpose of sexual arousal, sexual gratification, humiliation, degradation, or monetary or commercial gain.

(5) Disclosure of, or a threat to disclose, an intimate image is not a matter of public concern or public interest solely because the depicted individual is a public figure.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  In an action under this act a plaintiff may proceed using a pseudonym in place of the true name of the plaintiff under applicable state law or procedural rule.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  (1) In an action under this act, a prevailing plaintiff may recover:

(a) The greater of:

(i) Economic and noneconomic damages proximately caused by the defendant's disclosure or threatened disclosure, including damages for emotional distress whether or not accompanied by other damages; or

(ii) Statutory damages not to exceed $10,000 against each defendant found liable under this act for all disclosures and threatened disclosures by the defendant of which the plaintiff knew or reasonably should have known when filing the action or which became known during the pendency of the action. In determining the amount of statutory damages under this subsection (1)(a)(ii), consideration must be given to the age of the parties at the time of the disclosure or threatened disclosure, the number of disclosures or threatened disclosures made by the defendant, the breadth of distribution of the image by the defendant, and other exacerbating or mitigating factors;

(b) An amount equal to any monetary gain made by the defendant from disclosure of the intimate image; and

(c) Punitive damages in an amount not to exceed three times the amount of damages under (a) of this subsection.

(2) In an action under this act, the court may award a prevailing plaintiff:

(a) Reasonable attorneys' fees and costs; and

(b) Additional relief, including injunctive relief.

(3) This act does not affect a right or remedy available under law of this state other than this act.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  (1) An action under section 3(2) of this act for:

(a) An unauthorized disclosure may not be brought later than four years from the date the disclosure was discovered or should have been discovered with the exercise of reasonable diligence; and

(b) A threat to disclose may not be brought later than four years from the date of the threat to disclose.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3) of this section, this section is subject to the tolling statutes of this state.

(3) In an action under section 3(2) of this act by a depicted individual who was a minor on the date of the disclosure or threat to disclose, the time specified in subsection (1)(a) of this section does not begin to run until the depicted individual attains the age of majority.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  This act must be construed to be consistent with the communications decency act of 1996, 47 U.S.C. Sec. 230.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  In applying and construing this uniform act, consideration must be given to the need to promote uniformity of the law with respect to its subject matter among states that enact it.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  If any provision of this act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the remainder of the act or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances is held invalid.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  RCW 4.24.795 (Distribution of intimate images—Liability for damages, other civil penalties—Confidentiality of the plaintiff) and 2015 2nd sp.s. c 8 s 1 are each repealed.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  The repeal in section 11 of this act does not affect any existing right acquired or liability or obligation incurred under RCW 4.24.795 or under any rule or order adopted under that section, nor does it affect any proceeding instituted under that section.

NEW SECTION. **Sec.**  Sections 1 through 9 of this act constitute a new chapter in Title 7 RCW.

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