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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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December 20, 2002

TO: All House Members

FROM: Rep. Allan Egolf *AE*

SUBJECT: Proposed Legislation – Unlawful Use of Computers for Solicitation/Procurement of Minors

I am planning to reintroduce legislation, which amends the Crimes Code by adding a section titled Unlawful Use of a Computer for the Solicitation or Procurement of a Minor (previously H.B. 1843).

Unfortunately, the growth of the Internet has provided criminals with an easy mechanism to take advantage of our most vulnerable citizens – children. Although the Office of Attorney General has conducted numerous investigations into these crimes, they cannot prosecute these cases without a referral from the local District Attorney. District Attorneys are able to prosecute these cases under current law, however computer investigations into these crimes are often labor and resource intensive, especially for smaller counties. This bill would give the Office of Attorney General concurrent jurisdiction with district attorneys to prosecute cases in which a computer is used to solicit minors for certain enumerated sexual offenses. This bill also addresses the unfortunate scenario of a pedophile using a computer to solicit a parent or adult to procure a child. Additionally, this bill would increase the grading of this offense from a felony three to a felony two.

If you would like to cosponsor this bill or need more information, please contact Teri Root at troot@pahousegop.com or call 3-1593.

AE/tcr

Prior Cosponsors: ADOLPH, ARGALL, BASTIAN, BEBKO-JONES, BELARDI, BENNINGHOFF, BROWNE, BUNT, CALTAGIRONE, CAPPELLI, CLARK, COLAFELLA, CORRIGAN, CREIGHTON, DALEY, DeLUCA, FORCIER, GABIG, GEIST, GEORGE, GRUCELA, HARHAI, HENNESSEY, HERSHEY, HESS, HUTCHINSON, JAMES, KAISER, KELLER, LEDERER, MAHER, MARSICO, METCALFE, R. MILLER, PALLONE, PHILLIPS, PISTELLA, ROSS, SATHER, SAYLOR, SCHRODER, SHANER, SOLOBAY, STERN, THOMAS, TIGUE, TRELLO, TRICH, WALKO, WANSACZ, WASHINGTON, WATSON, YOUNGBLOOD, ZIMMERMAN and DIVEN.



House of Representatives

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG
17120-2228

May 25, 2001

TO: Honorable Allan Egolf

FROM: Edward C. Hussie, Chief Counsel ECH

RE: Legislation Creating Crime for Unlawful Use of Computers for Solicitation/Procurement of Minors

Enclosed is your requested legislation, as drafted by the Attorney General's Office, which creates the criminal offense of unlawfully using a computer for the sexual solicitation or procurement of a minor. The draft also increases the penalty for the existing crimes of possessing and disseminating child pornography.

This legislation departs from standard operating procedure in that it gives the Attorney General authority to prosecute this proposed crime. District attorneys, who ordinarily would have exclusive jurisdiction to prosecute this type of criminal offense, would also be empowered to prosecute this offense.

If you would like to discuss this legislation in more detail or if I can be of any further assistance on this matter, please let me know.

ECH:kag

Enclosure