

**ASSEMBLY, No. 2952**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**220th LEGISLATURE**

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INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 28, 2022

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblywoman NANCY F. MUNOZ**

**District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)**

**Assemblywoman MICHELE MATSIKOUDIS**

**District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)**

**Assemblyman PARKER SPACE**

**District 24 (Morris, Sussex and Warren)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman Wirths, Assemblywomen Sawyer, DeFuccio and  
Assemblyman Auth**

**SYNOPSIS**

“Human Trafficking and Child Exploitation Prevention Act”; requires Internet-connected devices to have blocking capability in certain circumstances.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 6/9/2022)**

1 AN ACT concerning obscene material and supplementing P.L.1960,  
2 c.39 (C.56:8-1 et seq.).

3  
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*  
5 *of New Jersey:*

6  
7 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the “Human  
8 Trafficking and Child Exploitation Prevention Act.”

9  
10 2. a. It shall be an unlawful practice and a violation of  
11 P.L.1960, c.39 (C.56:8-1 et seq.) to manufacture, sell, offer for sale,  
12 lease, or distribute a product that makes content accessible on the  
13 Internet:

14 (1) unless the product contains digital blocking capability that  
15 renders any obscene material, as defined in N.J.S.2C:34-2 or  
16 N.J.S.2C:34-3, inaccessible; and

17 (2) to a minor unless the digital blocking capability is active and  
18 properly operating to make obscene material inaccessible.

19 b. A person who manufactures, sells, offers for sale, leases, or  
20 distributes a product that makes content accessible on the Internet  
21 shall:

22 (1) make reasonable and ongoing efforts to ensure that the  
23 digital content blocking capability functions properly;

24 (2) establish a reporting mechanism, such as a website or call  
25 center, to allow a consumer to report unblocked obscene material or  
26 report blocked material that is not obscene;

27 (3) ensure that all child pornography and revenge pornography  
28 is inaccessible on the product;

29 (4) prohibit the product from accessing any hub that facilitates  
30 prostitution; and

31 (5) render websites that are known to facilitate human  
32 trafficking, in violation of section 1 of P.L.2005, c.77 (C.2C:13-8),  
33 inaccessible.

34

35 3. a. Any digital blocking capability may be deactivated after  
36 a consumer:

37 (1) requests in writing that the capability be disabled;

38 (2) presents identification to verify that the consumer is 18 years  
39 of age or older;

40 (3) acknowledges receiving a written warning regarding the  
41 potential danger of deactivating the digital blocking capability; and

42 (4) pays a one-time \$20 digital access fee.

43 b. A person who manufactures, sells, offers for sale, leases, or  
44 distributes a product that makes content accessible on the Internet  
45 may elect to pay a \$20 opt-out fee for each product that enters this  
46 State’s stream of commerce.

47 c. A person who manufactures, sells, offers for sale, leases, or  
48 distributes a product that makes content accessible on the Internet

1 shall submit the funds collected as the digital access fee, pursuant to  
2 paragraph (4) of subsection a. of this section, or the opt-out fee  
3 pursuant to subsection b. of this section, to the State Treasurer each  
4 quarter. The State Treasurer shall forward the funds collected to the  
5 Attorney General to help fund the operations of the Commission on  
6 Human Trafficking, established by section 1 of P.L.2013,  
7 c.51 (C.52:17B-237).

8  
9 4. a. If the digital blocking capability blocks material that is  
10 not obscene and the block is reported to a call center or reporting  
11 website, the material shall be unblocked within a reasonable time,  
12 but in no event later than five business days after the block is first  
13 reported.

14 b. A consumer may seek judicial relief to unblock filtered  
15 content.

16 c. If a person who manufactures, sells, offers for sale, leases,  
17 or distributes a product that makes content accessible on the  
18 Internet is unresponsive to a report of obscene material that has  
19 breached the filter, the Attorney General or a consumer may file a  
20 civil suit. The Attorney General or a consumer may seek damages  
21 of up to \$500 for each piece of content that was reported but not  
22 subsequently blocked. The prevailing party in the civil action may  
23 seek attorneys' fees.

24  
25 5. This act shall take effect immediately.  
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## 28 STATEMENT

29  
30 This bill, to be known as the "Human Trafficking and Child  
31 Exploitation Prevention Act," makes it an unlawful practice under  
32 the consumer fraud act to manufacture, sell, offer for sale, lease, or  
33 distribute a product that makes content accessible on the Internet  
34 unless the product contains digital blocking capability that renders  
35 any obscene material inaccessible. Additionally, it would be an  
36 unlawful practice for a minor to receive such a product unless the  
37 digital blocking capability is active and properly operating.

38 Under the bill, a person who manufactures, sells, offers for sale,  
39 leases, or distributes a product that makes content accessible on the  
40 Internet is to:

41 (1) make reasonable and ongoing efforts to ensure that the  
42 digital content blocking capability functions properly;

43 (2) establish a reporting mechanism, such as a website or call  
44 center, to allow a consumer to report unblocked obscene material or  
45 report blocked material that is not obscene;

46 (3) ensure that all child pornography and revenge pornography  
47 is inaccessible on the product;

1 (4) prohibit the product from accessing any hub that facilitates  
2 prostitution; and

3 (5) render websites that are known to facilitate human  
4 trafficking inaccessible.

5 An unlawful practice is punishable by a monetary penalty of not  
6 more than \$10,000 for a first offense and not more than \$20,000 for  
7 any subsequent offense. Additionally, a violation can result in  
8 cease and desist orders issued by the Attorney General, the  
9 assessment of punitive damages, and the awarding of treble  
10 damages and costs to the injured.

11 The bill provides that any digital blocking capability may be  
12 deactivated after a consumer: requests in writing that the capability  
13 be disabled; presents identification to verify that he or she is 18  
14 years of age or older; acknowledges receiving a written warning  
15 regarding the potential danger of deactivating the digital blocking  
16 capability; and pays a one-time \$20 digital access fee. A person  
17 who manufactures, sells, offers for sale, leases, or distributes a  
18 product that makes content accessible on the Internet may elect to  
19 pay a \$20 opt-out fee for each product that enters this State's stream  
20 of commerce. The digital access fee and opt-out fee would be  
21 collected and submitted by the manufacturer or seller to the State  
22 Treasurer each quarter, to be forwarded to the Attorney General to  
23 help fund the operations of the Commission on Human Trafficking.

24 If the digital blocking capability blocks material that is not  
25 obscene and the block is reported to a call center or reporting  
26 website, the material is to be unblocked within a reasonable time,  
27 but no later than five business days after the block is first reported.  
28 A consumer may seek judicial relief to unblock filtered content.

29 The Attorney General or a consumer may file a civil suit for any  
30 report of unblocked obscene material that does not receive a  
31 response. The Attorney General or consumer may seek damages of  
32 up to \$500 for each piece of content that was reported but not  
33 subsequently blocked. The prevailing party in the civil action may  
34 seek attorneys' fees.