

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2015

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HOUSE BILL 792  
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/22/15  
Senate Judiciary I Committee Substitute Adopted 7/23/15

Short Title: Privacy/Protection From Revenge Postings. (Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 15, 2015

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC FROM REVENGE POSTING ONLINE BY  
3 MAKING IT A CRIMINAL OFFENSE TO DISCLOSE CERTAIN IMAGES IN WHICH  
4 THERE IS A REASONABLE EXPECTATION OF PRIVACY AND TO MAKE  
5 INDECENT EXPOSURE THAT OCCURS ON PRIVATE PREMISES A CRIMINAL  
6 OFFENSE.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 **SECTION 1.** Article 26 of Chapter 14 of the General Statutes is amended by  
9 adding a new section to read:

10 "**§ 14-190.5A. Disclosure of private images.**

11 (a) Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this section:

12 (1) Disclose. – Transfer, publish, distribute, or reproduce.

13 (2) Image. – A photograph, film, videotape, recording, digital, or other  
14 reproduction.

15 (3) Intimate parts. – The naked genitals, pubic area, anus, or the nipple of a  
16 female over the age of 12.

17 (4) Personal relationship. – As defined in G.S. 50B-1(b).

18 (5) Reasonable expectation of privacy. – When a depicted person has consented  
19 to the disclosure of an image within the context of a personal relationship  
20 and the depicted person reasonably believes that the disclosure will not go  
21 beyond that relationship.

22 (6) Sexual conduct. – Includes any of the following:

23 a. Vaginal, anal, or oral intercourse, whether actual or simulated,  
24 normal or perverted.

25 b. Masturbation, excretory functions, or lewd exhibition of uncovered  
26 genitals.

27 c. An act or condition that depicts torture, physical restraint by being  
28 fettered or bound, or flagellation of or by a nude person or a person  
29 clad in undergarments or in revealing or bizarre costume.

30 (b) A person is guilty of a Class H felony if, with the intent to coerce, harass,  
31 intimidate, demean, humiliate, or cause financial loss to the depicted person, or with the intent  
32 to cause others to coerce, harass, intimidate, demean, humiliate, or cause financial loss to the  
33 depicted person, the person knowingly discloses an image of another person who is identifiable  
34 from the image itself or information offered in connection with the image, and whose intimate  
35 parts are exposed or who is engaged in sexual conduct, when the person knows or should have



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1 known that the depicted person has not consented to such disclosure and under circumstances  
2 such that the person knew or should have known that the depicted person had a reasonable  
3 expectation of privacy. In addition, the court may order the destruction of any image made in  
4 violation of this section.

5 (c) Exceptions. – This section does not apply to any of the following:

6 (1) Images involving voluntary exposure in public or commercial settings.

7 (2) Disclosures made in the public interest, including, but not limited to, the  
8 reporting of unlawful conduct or the lawful and common practices of law  
9 enforcement, criminal reporting, legal proceedings, medical treatment, or  
10 scientific or educational activities.

11 (3) Providers of an interactive computer service, as defined in 47 U.S.C. §  
12 230(f), for images provided by another person.

13 (d) In addition to any other remedies at law or in equity, including an order by the court  
14 to destroy any image disclosed in violation of this section, any person whose image is  
15 disclosed, or used, as described in subsection (b) of this section, has a civil cause of action  
16 against any person who discloses or uses the image and is entitled to recover from the other  
17 person any of the following:

18 (1) Actual damages, but not less than liquidated damages, to be computed at the  
19 rate of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per day for each day of the violation or  
20 in the amount of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000), whichever is higher.

21 (2) Punitive damages.

22 (3) A reasonable attorneys' fee and other litigation costs reasonably incurred.

23 The civil cause of action may be brought no more than four years after the last disclosure as  
24 described in this section."

25 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 14-190.9 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

26 "(a2) Unless the conduct is prohibited by another law providing greater punishment, any  
27 person who shall willfully expose the private parts of his or her person in the presence of  
28 anyone other than a consenting adult on the private premises of another or so near thereto as to  
29 be seen from such private premises for the purpose of arousing or gratifying sexual desire is  
30 guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor."

31 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective December 1, 2015, and applies to  
32 offenses committed on or after that date and to actions initiated on or after that date.