

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Joint Resolution 1 (Senator Serafini, *et al.*)
Judicial Proceedings

Exposure of Minors to Pornography - Degradation of Public Health

This joint resolution declares that the exposure of minors to pornography and pornographic material is a public health hazard in the State that is leading to the degradation of the health and well-being of State residents. It further finds that the proliferation of pornography accessible to minors causes long-term health effects that impact State institutions and all State residents and encourages all parents of minors to protect their children from exposure to and the viewing of pornographic material.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The joint resolution does not directly affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Background: According to the bill's preamble, the exposure of minors to pornography detrimentally affects the health and safety of State residents, including increasing the risk for illegal sexual behavior and sexual violence. It also indicates that during a one-year period, 42% of Internet users who are minors reported being exposed to pornography. Of the minor males exposed to pornography, 42% viewed pornography that depicted violence against women; young males exposed to pornography are more likely to engage in aggressive and antisocial behavior.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

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mm/kdm

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