

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Joint Resolution 2 (Delegate Parrott, *et al.*)
Rules and Executive Nominations

Exposure to Pornography - Public Health Crisis

This joint resolution declares that exposure to pornography is a public health crisis that must be addressed systematically. The joint resolution further declares that it is necessary to prevent pornography exposure and addiction, to educate individuals and families on the harms of pornography, and to develop pornography recovery programs. The joint resolution encourages pornography education, prevention, research, and policy changes in communities in order to address the harms caused by pornography.

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 preamble of the joint resolution, exposure to pornography contributes to low self-esteem, eating disorders, an increase in problematic sexual activity among minors, and an increase in the desire to engage in risky sexual behavior. It also indicates that pornography normalizes violence and abuse of women and children and notes that pornography increases the demand for sex trafficking, prostitution, child sexual abuse, and child pornography.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HJ 4 of 2019, a substantially similar resolution, received an unfavorable report from the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee. HJ 5 of 2018, a substantially similar resolution, received an unfavorable report from the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee. HJ 9 of 2018, a similar resolution, received an unfavorable report from the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee. Its cross file, SJ 1, received a hearing in the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee, but no further action was taken.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Department of Health; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 19, 2020
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Analysis by: Hillary J. Cleckler

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510