

Senator Todd D. Weiler proposes the following substitute bill:

SEXUAL OFFENSES AMENDMENTS

2024 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Jon Hawkins

Senate Sponsor: Todd D. Weiler

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill addresses certain sexual crimes committed against children.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ clarifies the conduct required for an actor to be guilty of:
 - rape of a child;
 - object rape of a child;
 - sexual abuse of a child; and
 - aggravated sexual abuse of a child; and
- ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

76-5-402.1, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 181



26 [76-5-402.3](#), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 181

27 [76-5-404.1](#), as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 181

28 [76-5-404.3](#), as enacted by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 181

29

30 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

31 Section 1. Section [76-5-402.1](#) is amended to read:

32 **[76-5-402.1](#). Rape of a child -- Penalties.**

33 (1) (a) As used in this section:

34 (i) "Child" means an individual who is younger than 14 years old.

35 (ii) "Sexual intercourse" means:

36 (A) any touching skin-to-skin, however slight, of an individual's genitals to another
37 individual's genitals; or

38 (B) any penetration, however slight, of an individual's genitals by another individual's
39 genitals, whether over or under the clothing.

40 (iii) "Simulated intercourse" means rubbing or otherwise stimulating or attempting to
41 stimulate an individual's genitals or pubic area by another individual's genitals or pubic area
42 whether over or under the clothing.

43 (b) Terms defined in Section [76-1-101.5](#) apply to this section.

44 (2) ~~[(a)]~~ An actor commits rape of a child if the actor:

45 (a) has sexual intercourse with ~~[an individual who is younger than 14 years old]~~ a
46 child; or

47 (b) intentionally engages in simulated intercourse with a child.

48 ~~[(b) Any touching, however slight, is sufficient to constitute the relevant element of a~~
49 ~~violation of Subsection (2)(a).]~~

50 (3) A violation of Subsection (2) is a first degree felony punishable by a term of
51 imprisonment of:

52 (a) except as provided in Subsections (3)(b) and (5), not less than 25 years and which
53 may be for life; or

54 (b) life without parole, if the trier of fact finds that:

55 (i) during the course of the commission of the rape of a child, the defendant caused
56 serious bodily injury to the victim; or

57 (ii) at the time of the commission of the rape of a child the defendant was previously
58 convicted of a grievous sexual offense.

59 (4) Subsection (3)(b) does not apply if the defendant was younger than 18 years old at
60 the time of the offense.

61 (5) (a) When imposing a sentence under Subsections (3)(a) and (5)(b), a court may
62 impose a term of imprisonment under Subsection (5)(b) if:

63 (i) it is a first time offense for the defendant under this section;

64 (ii) the defendant was younger than 21 years old at the time of the offense; and

65 (iii) the court finds that a lesser term than the term described in Subsection (3)(a) is in
66 the interests of justice under the facts and circumstances of the case, including the age of the
67 victim, and states the reasons for this finding on the record.

68 (b) If the conditions of Subsection (5)(a) are met, the court may impose a term of
69 imprisonment of not less than:

70 (i) 15 years and which may be for life;

71 (ii) 10 years and which may be for life; or

72 (iii) six years and which may be for life.

73 (6) Imprisonment under this section is mandatory in accordance with Section 76-3-406.

74 Section 2. Section 76-5-402.3 is amended to read:

75 **76-5-402.3. Object rape of a child -- Penalty.**

76 (1) (a) As used in this section:

77 (i) "Child" means an individual who is younger than 14 years old.

78 (ii) "Masturbatory contact" means the stimulation or attempted stimulation of an
79 individual's genitals or pubic area by another individual.

80 (b) Terms defined in Section 76-1-101.5 apply to this section.

81 (2) [(a)] An actor commits object rape of a child if:

82 [(i)] (a) (i) the actor causes the penetration [~~or touching~~], however slight, whether over
83 or under the clothing, of the [~~genital or anal opening of the individual by, except as provided in~~

84 Subsection (2)(b)] genitals or anus of a child by:

85 (A) a foreign object;

86 (B) a substance;

87 (C) an instrument; [~~or~~]

88 (D) a device; or
89 (E) a part of the human body other than the mouth or genitals;
90 (ii) the actor causes the touching, however slight, of the skin of the genitals or anus of a
91 child by:

92 (A) a foreign object;
93 (B) a substance;
94 (C) an instrument;
95 (D) a device; or
96 (E) a part of the human body other than the mouth or genitals; or
97 (iii) the actor causes the masturbatory contact over or under the clothing of the genitals
98 or anus of a child by:

99 (A) a foreign object;
100 (B) a substance;
101 (C) an instrument;
102 (D) a device; or
103 (E) a part of the human body other than the mouth or genitals; and

104 ~~[(ii)]~~ (b) the actor:
105 ~~[(A)]~~ (i) intends to cause substantial emotional or bodily pain to the ~~[individual]~~ child;

106 or
107 ~~[(B)]~~ (ii) intends to arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any individual~~[-and]~~.
108 ~~[(iii) the individual described in Subsection (2)(a)(i) is younger than 14 years old.]~~
109 ~~[(b) Subsection (2)(a) does not include penetration or touching by a part of the human~~
110 ~~body.]~~

111 (3) (a) A violation of Subsection (2) is a first degree felony punishable by a term of
112 imprisonment of:

113 (i) except as provided in Subsections (3)(a)(ii) and (4), not less than 25 years and
114 which may be for life; or

115 (ii) life without parole, if the trier of fact finds that:

116 (A) during the course of the commission of the object rape of a child the defendant
117 caused serious bodily injury to the victim; or

118 (B) at the time of the commission of the object rape of a child the defendant was

119 previously convicted of a grievous sexual offense.

120 (b) Subsection (3)(a)(ii) does not apply if the defendant was younger than 18 years old
121 at the time of the offense.

122 (4) (a) When imposing a sentence under Subsections (3)(a)(i) and (4)(b), a court may
123 impose a term of imprisonment under Subsection (4)(b) if:

124 (i) it is a first time offense for the defendant under this section;

125 (ii) the defendant was younger than 21 years old at the time of the offense; and

126 (iii) the court finds that a lesser term than the term described in Subsection (3)(a)(i) is
127 in the interests of justice under the facts and circumstances of the case, including the age of the
128 victim, and states the reasons for this finding on the record.

129 (b) If the conditions of Subsection (4)(a) are met, the court may impose a term of
130 imprisonment of not less than:

131 (i) 15 years and which may be for life;

132 (ii) 10 years and which may be for life; or

133 (iii) six years and which may be for life.

134 (5) Imprisonment under this section is mandatory in accordance with Section [76-3-406](#).

135 Section 3. Section **76-5-404.1** is amended to read:

136 **76-5-404.1. Sexual abuse of a child -- Penalties -- Limitations.**

137 (1) (a) As used in this section:

138 (i) "Adult" means an individual 18 years old or older.

139 (ii) "Child" means an individual younger than 14 years old.

140 (iii) "Indecent liberties" means the same as that term is defined in Section [76-5-401.1](#).

141 (iv) "Position of special trust" means:

142 (A) an adoptive parent;

143 (B) an athletic manager who is an adult;

144 (C) an aunt;

145 (D) a babysitter;

146 (E) a coach;

147 (F) a cohabitant of a parent if the cohabitant is an adult;

148 (G) a counselor;

149 (H) a doctor or physician;

- 150 (I) an employer;
- 151 (J) a foster parent;
- 152 (K) a grandparent;
- 153 (L) a legal guardian;
- 154 (M) a natural parent;
- 155 (N) a recreational leader who is an adult;
- 156 (O) a religious leader;
- 157 (P) a sibling or a stepsibling who is an adult;
- 158 (Q) a scout leader who is an adult;
- 159 (R) a stepparent;
- 160 (S) a teacher or any other individual employed by or volunteering at a public or private
- 161 elementary school or secondary school, and who is 18 years old or older;
- 162 (T) an instructor, professor, or teaching assistant at a public or private institution of
- 163 higher education;
- 164 (U) an uncle;
- 165 (V) a youth leader who is an adult; or
- 166 (W) any individual in a position of authority, other than those individuals listed in
- 167 Subsections (1)(a)(iv)(A) through (V), which enables the individual to exercise undue
- 168 influence over the child.
- 169 (b) Terms defined in Section [76-1-101.5](#) apply to this section.
- 170 (2) (a) Under circumstances not amounting to an offense listed in Subsection (4), an
- 171 actor commits sexual abuse of a child if the actor:
- 172 (i) (A) touches ~~[the anus]~~, whether over or under the clothing, the buttocks[;] or pubic
- 173 area[; or genitalia] of [any] a child;
- 174 (B) touches, whether over or under the clothing, the breast of a female child; ~~[or]~~
- 175 ~~[(C) otherwise takes indecent liberties with a child;]~~
- 176 (C) touches the anus or genitals of a child over the clothing; or
- 177 (D) otherwise takes indecent liberties with a child whether over or under the clothing;
- 178 and
- 179 (ii) the actor's conduct is with intent to:
- 180 (A) cause substantial emotional or bodily pain to any individual; or

- 181 (B) [~~to~~] arouse or gratify the sexual desire of any individual.
- 182 (b) Any touching, [~~even if accomplished through clothing~~] however slight, is sufficient
183 to constitute the relevant element of a violation of Subsection (2)(a).
- 184 (3) A violation of Subsection (2) is a second degree felony.
- 185 (4) The offenses referred to in Subsection (2)(a) are:
- 186 (a) rape of a child, in violation of Section 76-5-402.1;
- 187 (b) object rape of a child, in violation of Section 76-5-402.3;
- 188 (c) sodomy on a child, in violation of Section 76-5-403.1; or
- 189 (d) an attempt to commit an offense listed in Subsections (4)(a) through (4)(c).
- 190 (5) Imprisonment under this section is mandatory in accordance with Section 76-3-406.
191 Section 4. Section 76-5-404.3 is amended to read:
- 192 **76-5-404.3. Aggravated sexual abuse of a child -- Penalties.**
- 193 (1) (a) As used in this section:
- 194 (i) "Adult" means the same as that term is defined in Section 76-5-404.1.
- 195 (ii) "Child" means the same as that term is defined in Section 76-5-404.1.
- 196 (iii) "Position of special trust" means the same as that term is defined in Section
197 76-5-404.1.
- 198 (b) Terms defined in Section 76-1-101.5 apply to this section.
- 199 (2) [~~(a)~~] An actor commits aggravated sexual abuse of a child if, in conjunction with
200 the offense described in Subsection 76-5-404.1(2)(a), any of the following circumstances have
201 been charged and admitted or found true in the action for the offense:
- 202 [~~(i)~~] (a) the actor committed the offense:
- 203 [~~(A)~~] (i) by the use of a dangerous weapon;
- 204 [~~(B)~~] (ii) by force, duress, violence, intimidation, coercion, menace, or threat of harm;
- 205 or
- 206 [~~(C)~~] (iii) during the course of a [~~kidnaping~~] kidnapping;
- 207 [~~(ii)~~] (b) the actor caused bodily injury or severe psychological injury to the child
208 during or as a result of the offense;
- 209 [~~(iii)~~] (c) the actor was a stranger to the child or made friends with the child for the
210 purpose of committing the offense;
- 211 [~~(iv)~~] (d) the actor used, showed, or displayed pornography or caused the child to be

212 photographed in a lewd condition during the course of the offense;

213 ~~[(v)]~~ (e) the actor, prior to sentencing for this offense, was previously convicted of any
214 sexual offense;

215 ~~[(vi)]~~ (f) the actor committed the same or similar sexual act upon two or more
216 individuals at the same time or during the same course of conduct;

217 ~~[(vii)]~~ (g) the actor committed, in Utah or elsewhere, more than five separate acts,
218 which if committed in Utah would constitute an offense described in this chapter, and were
219 committed at the same time, or during the same course of conduct, or before or after the instant
220 offense;

221 ~~[(viii)]~~ (h) the actor occupied a position of special trust in relation to the child; or

222 ~~[(ix)]~~ (i) the actor encouraged, aided, allowed, or benefitted from acts of prostitution or
223 sexual acts by the child with any other individual, sexual performance by the child before any
224 other individual, human trafficking, or human smuggling~~[-or].~~

225 ~~[(x) the actor caused the penetration, however slight, of the genital or anal opening of
226 the child by any part or parts of the human body other than the genitals or mouth.]~~

227 ~~[(b) Any touching, even if accomplished through clothing, is sufficient to constitute the
228 relevant element of a violation of Subsection (2)(a).]~~

229 (3) Except as provided in Subsection (6), a violation of Subsection (2) is a first degree
230 felony punishable by a term of imprisonment of:

231 (a) except as provided in Subsection (3)(b), (3)(c), or (4), not less than 15 years and
232 which may be for life;

233 (b) except as provided in Subsection (3)(c) or (4), life without parole, if the trier of fact
234 finds that during the course of the commission of the aggravated sexual abuse of a child the
235 defendant caused serious bodily injury to another; or

236 (c) life without parole, if the trier of fact finds that at the time of the commission of the
237 aggravated sexual abuse of a child, the defendant was previously convicted of a grievous
238 sexual offense.

239 (4) If, when imposing a sentence under Subsection (3)(a) or (b), a court finds that a
240 lesser term than the term described in Subsection (3)(a) or (b) is in the interests of justice and
241 states the reasons for this finding on the record, the court may impose a term of imprisonment
242 of not less than:

- 243 (a) for purposes of Subsection (3)(b), 15 years and which may be for life; or
244 (b) for purposes of Subsection (3)(a) or (b):
245 (i) 10 years and which may be for life; or
246 (ii) six years and which may be for life.
247 (5) The provisions of Subsection (4) do not apply if a defendant is sentenced under
248 Subsection (3)(c).
249 (6) Subsection (3)(b) or (3)(c) does not apply if the defendant was younger than 18
250 years old at the time of the offense.
251 (7) Imprisonment under this section is mandatory in accordance with Section [76-3-406](#).
252 Section 5. **Effective date.**
253 This bill takes effect on May 1, 2024.