

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2026 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **Senate Bill 154**

By Senator Grady

[Introduced January 14, 2026; referred

to the Committee on the Judiciary]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section,  
2 designated §61-8C-2a, relating to the filming of minors engaged in sexually explicit  
3 conduct; creating a new criminal offense of manipulating a photograph, image, video clip,  
4 movie, or similar recording containing sexually explicit conduct by the insertion thereof of a  
5 visual image of an actual minor so as to create the appearance that it is a minor engaged in  
6 the sexually explicit conduct; defining terms; clarifying that the offense is separate and  
7 distinct from any other offense set forth in the code; and establishing criminal penalties.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

**ARTICLE 8C. FILMING OF SEXUALLY EXPLICIT CONDUCT OF MINORS.**

**§61-8C-2a Prohibited digital manipulation of media.**

1 Any person who modifies or otherwise changes a photograph, image, video clip, movie, or  
2 recording containing sexually explicit conduct by the insertion therein of a visual image of an actual  
3 minor so as to create the appearance that it is a minor engaged in the sexually explicit conduct is  
4 guilty of a felony and, upon conviction shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or confined in a state  
5 correctional facility for not less than one nor more than five years or both fined and confined.

6 As used in this section "actual minor" means a living or once living person the image of  
7 whom was taken or captured when he or she was under the age of 18 and later inserted into a  
8 photograph, image, video clip, movie or recording containing sexually explicit conduct.

9 The provisions of this section constitute a separate and distinct offense from any other set  
10 forth in this code.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to create a new criminal offense of manipulating a photograph, image, video clip, movie, or similar recording containing sexually explicit conduct by the insertion thereof of a visual image of an actual minor so as to create the appearance that it is a minor engaged in the sexually explicit conduct.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.