

**ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AR No. 2024-99**

1 **A RESOLUTION OF THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE**
2 **BILL 254 IN THE STATE LEGISLATURE, PROHIBITING PUBLISHING OR**
3 **DISTRIBUTING PORNOGRAPHY TO MINORS ON THE INTERNET.**
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6 **WHEREAS**, pornography contributes to the sexualization of teens and
7 pre-adolescent children, leading to low self-esteem, body image disorders, and an
8 increase in problematic sexual activity at younger ages, as well as fostering a
9 heightened desire for risky sexual behavior in adolescents; and

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11 **WHEREAS**, pornography may impact brain development and functioning,
12 contribute to emotional and medical illnesses, shape sexual arousal patterns, and
13 hinder the establishment and maintenance of positive, intimate relationships, while
14 also promoting problematic or harmful sexual behaviors and addiction; and

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16 **WHEREAS**, according to the American College of Pediatricians, engaging in porn
17 consumption can adversely affect every aspect of an individual's life, contributing to
18 heightened rates of depression, anxiety, early sexual promiscuity, and increased
19 risk of teen pregnancy¹; and

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21 **WHEREAS**, advancements in online technology and platform capabilities now make
22 it reasonable and feasible to implement online age verification measures prior to
23 accessing pornographic sites; and

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25 **WHEREAS**, several states, including Montana, North Carolina, Texas, Utah,
26 Virginia, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Louisiana, have recognized the detrimental
27 impact of these sites on their societies, prompting them to implement age verification
28 measures to protect and promote the well-being of the younger generation; and

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30 **WHEREAS**, House Bill 254 serves as a crucial legislative initiative addressing the
31 growing public health crisis related to the influence of pornography on minors. It
32 aims to disrupt a tool employed by traffickers, preventing easy access to young
33 potential victims through explicit content; and

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35 **WHEREAS** House Bill 254 requires sites to use a commercially reasonable age
36 verification method to verify that a person attempting to access the pornography is
37 18 years of age or older. A "commercially reasonable age verification method"
38 includes requiring the person attempting to access the pornography to provide a
39 digitized identification card, requiring the person to comply with a commercial age
40 verification system that verifies age using government-issued identification, or
41 another method that relies on public or private transactional data; and
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¹ Perry, D. (October 2015). The Impact of Pornography on Children, American College of Pediatricians:
<https://acpeds.org/position-statements/the-impact-of-pornography-on-children>

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WHEREAS, by enforcing laws and restricting minors’ access to explicit material, HB 254 serves as a tool in the fight against human trafficking, contributing to the overall well-being and safety of the next generation; and

WHEREAS, HB 254 represents a necessary step in safeguarding the mental, emotional, and physical health of our youth. It reflects a collective responsibility to create a secure and nurturing environment, allowing minors to develop into healthy, well-adjusted individuals free from the corrosive influence of explicit material.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY RESOLVES:

Section 1. The Anchorage Assembly supports prohibiting the publishing and distribution of pornography to minors on the Internet and asks the Alaska Legislature to pass House Bill 254.

Section 2. This resolution shall be effective immediately upon passage and approval by the Assembly.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this 19th day of March, 2024.

Chair of the Assembly

ATTEST:

Municipal Clerk