

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2024 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 175

BY SENATORS WOELFEL, PHILLIPS, SWOPE, RUCKER,

WOODRUM, HAMILTON, DEEDS, AND CAPUTO

[Introduced January 10, 2024]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §61-2-13 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating
2 to the offenses of extortion and attempted extortion; including threats to publish images of
3 a person's intimate body parts as a means of committing extortion or attempted extortion;
4 defining the phrase "anything of value or other consideration" to include certain defined
5 sexual acts; defining "images of intimate body parts"; and setting forth criminal penalties.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. CRIMES AGAINST THE PERSON.

§61-2-13. Extortion or attempted extortion by threats; penalties.

1 (a) A person who threatens injury to the character, person, or property, or other thing of
2 value of another person, or to the character, person, or property, or other thing of value of his or
3 her spouse or child, threatens to publish in any manner images of another person's intimate body
4 parts, or accuses him or her or them of a criminal offense, and thereby obtains anything of value,
5 or other consideration, he or she is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be
6 ~~confined~~ imprisoned in a state correctional facility for not less than one year nor more than ~~five~~
7 10 years. A person who makes such threat of injury or accusation of an offense as set forth in this
8 section, but fails to obtain anything of value or other consideration, is guilty of a ~~misdemeanor~~
9 felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be ~~confined~~ imprisoned in ~~jail~~ a state correctional facility
10 for not less than one year ~~two~~ nor more than ~~12 months~~ three years and fined not less than ~~\$50~~
11 \$1,000 nor more than ~~\$500~~ \$5,000, or both fined and imprisoned.

12 ~~(b) For purposes of this article, "consideration" includes sexual acts as defined in §61-8B-~~
13 ~~1 of this code, and images of intimate parts defined in §61-8-28a of this code~~

14 (b) As used in this section, the phrase "anything of value, or other consideration" includes,
15 but is not limited to, sexual acts as defined in §61-8B-1 of this code, and the term "intimate body
16 parts" has the same meaning as set forth in §61-8-28a of this code.