

Making a Difference

The quarterly newsletter of the MARYLAND COALITION AGAINST PORNOGRAPHY, Inc.

<https://www.protect-maryland-kids.com/> or [en español](#)



301-439-8475

Vol 40, No. 4

Montgomery and Prince George's Counties

Spring, 2026

2026 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session Recap

The flurry of bills and hearings about the issues surrounding pornographic and sexually exploitative materials held much promise. but at session's end, only one bill passed. **SB221** Its lead sponsor, [Senator Mary-Dulany James](#), deserves thanks. This chart lists bills MCAP gave testimony on, progress made being indicated in red.

Number/ Chapter (Cross File) Total: 9	Title	Primary Sponsor	Status	Original House Committee(s) and Hearing Dates	Opposite House Committee(s) and Hearing Dates
HB0670 (SB0221/CH0530)	Criminal Law - Child Pornography - Prohibitions and Penalties	Delegate Moreno	Hearing 2/17 at 1:00 p.m.	Judiciary 2/17/2026 - 1:00 p.m.	PASSED into law
HB0693	Civil Actions - Distribution of Obscene Material to Minors	Delegate Grammer	Hearing 3/04 at 1:00 p.m.	Judiciary 3/4/2026 - 1:00 p.m.	
HB0710	Criminal Law - Display of Obscene Material to Minors	Delegate Grammer	Hearing 3/05 at 1:00 p.m.	Judiciary 3/5/2026 - 1:00 p.m.	
HB0908	Civil Actions - Failure to Restrict Distribution of Sexual Material Harmful to Minors	Delegate Schmidt	Unfavorable Report by Judiciary; Withdrawn	Judiciary 3/4/2026 - 1:00 p.m.	
HB0924 (SB0989)	Child Exploitation Material - Civil and Criminal Actions (Safe Kids Act)	Delegate Nkongolo	Hearing 3/04 at 1:00 p.m.	Judiciary 3/4/2026 - 1:00 p.m.	
HB1294	Criminal Law - Child Sexual Abuse Material - Artificial Intelligence Software Passed out of the House.	Delegate Wilson	Hearing 3/26 at 1:00 p.m.	Judiciary 3/5/2026 - 1:00 p.m.	Judicial Proceedings 3/26/2026 - 1:00 p.m.
SB0221/CH0530* (HB0670)	Criminal Law - Child Pornography - Prohibitions and Penalties	Senator James	Returned Passed	Judicial Proceedings 1/22/2026 - 1:00 p.m.	Judiciary
SB0736	Criminal Law - Obscene Matter - Visual Representation of Child	Senator Benson	Hearing 3/03 at 1:00 p.m.	Judicial Proceedings 3/3/2026 - 1:00 p.m.	

[HB 952](#) Consumer Protection - Companion Chatbots [Delegate Buckel](#) Hearing 3/03 **Favorable** with Amendments 3/20 by Econ Matters Cmtee
Hearing 03/26 **Referred to the Senate Finance Committee**

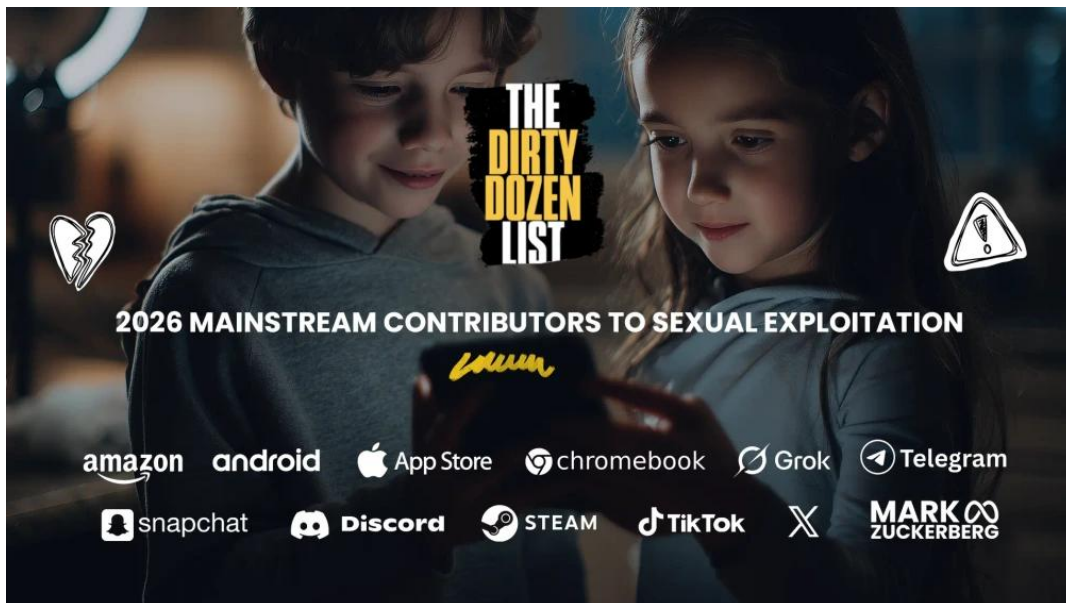
*** Passed the House 137-0** and likewise passed unanimously in the Senate, as it did last year! It prohibits possessing over 100 images of certain child pornography or images depicting minors under 13, creating a *felony* offense (previously it was only a misdemeanor) with up to 10 years in prison, with potential for consecutive sentences. Effective October 1, 2026.

For details about the content and their history in the process of the bills, the blue links above connect to the MGA website, and more info is available via our MCAP web page: <https://www.protect-maryland-kids.com/bills> You can also see pro and con information about *federal* bills still pending that MCAP is advocating about. MCAP was faithful to speak out about concerns, facts and truth, however, which matters and these issues will certainly arise again next year. Committees seem to be a choke point and their chairs seems to wield an inordinate amount of power to bring the process to a halt.

Chris McKenna of “Protect Young Eyes” gave a timely, compelling presentation on April 26 at Columbia Church in VA on *Mental Health, Tech, & AI: Protecting Fabulous and Fragile Brains*. Two of us from MCAP attended and came away so impressed about his passion and wisdom shared with parents that we are all the more convinced he ought to come to a *Maryland* venue to do the same. Do you have a PTA, organization or church who could host him? **Contact Peggy Cairns at 301-439-8475 or mcapinc@mcap1.com**. Chris has a new book about to release on June 16: . *5 Habits of the Tech-Ready Family: Raising Wise Kids in a Wild Digital World* The PYE website and blog also have great resources to check out. Chris shared one [mother’s brilliant letter](#) written to her daughter as she was about to give her a smart phone in which she established rules and expectations and the reasons and love behind those. Parents, it’s well worth emulating when that time comes in your family.

5 Nights at Epstein’s

Parents, have you heard about a recent, popular online game that teens are playing: “Five Nights at Epstein’s”? No, it’s not a joke and we’ve heard from our local PTA that school Chromebooks have even been used to access it! Watch this YouTube video to hear more: <https://m.youtube.com/shorts/Gnco2P2Eg4I>. The goal is to survive multiple nights on Jeffrey Epstein's island unscathed. National Public Radio (NPR) reported on it in April in “All Things Considered” ([link](#) to story here). You may want to discuss this with your kids, it’s a teaching opportunity to delve into the deplorable issues of sexual exploitation. Ask your children’s schools what reports they are hearing about this and what is being done about the weaknesses of Chromebooks. Speaking of which...



The [2026 Dirty Dozen list](#) is out, calling out the main contributors to sexual exploitation as designated by NCOSE (the National Center on Sexual Exploitation), which provides ways to take action against these entities. Watch the compelling [video](#)! Google Chromebooks are included on the list, as is Mark Zuckerberg himself, as well as Amazon, Android, the Apple App Store, Discord, Grok, Snapchat, Steam, Telegram, TikTok, and X (formerly Twitter). Check it out to see why, and take action!

Why is the Apple App store on the list? Here is an [article](#) detailing one reason - both Apple and Google are steering users to nudifying apps (apps that can take images of **real** people and use AI to make them look naked, put them into pornographic videos, or turn them into sexually explicit chatbots).

NCOSE is launching an online Parent Center powered by its own AI tool set up to immediately answer to all of your questions about protecting your kids online, resources to learn more and stay informed, and actions you can take to call for systemic change. A launch event will be livestreamed on May 14, 2026 at 3pm EST. Sign up and get updates at parentcenter.org! [Sign up for Parent Center launch today!](#)

WIZZ

Heads up to about the hazards of “WIZZ,” a social media platform which is being called “Tinder for Kids” and where sextortion is occurring. This [article](#) from the Fight the New Drug organization details more about it.

Kristen Jenson Scores a Hit Again

Following upon the success of her earlier books to protect children, author Kristen Jenson new [book](#), *Good Pictures Bad Pictures Guide for Girls* was recently released. It is aimed at 7-12 year old girls to keep them smart, safe and self-confident, making it a vital resource at the right time. Take a quick [video](#) flip through the pages to glimpse the illustrations and gentle content, and consider not only buying it but also recommending your local libraries acquire it. MCAP would like to launch a project to make that happen across our state, so that every county includes it in their public library collections. Want to help? Please contact mcapinc@mcap1.com. Other resources from the Defend Young Minds organization are also valuable.

Research Describes How Porn Adversely Affects Decision-Making

A sobering study by German behavioral addiction researchers brought to light this adverse effect of pornography consumption. As if there are not enough factors already that influence adolescents toward poor decisions, the study supports a not-surprising conclusion that viewing pornography and experiencing arousal affects the ability to make good decisions. An additional worry, earlier age of first exposure is associated with an increased risk of negative effects, including addiction. Parents may want to bring this up in conversations with their mature teens. A summary can be read at this [web page](#).

GOOD NEWS!

Meta and YouTube Lose Momentous Social Media Trial Verdicts

Kudos to New Mexico Attorney General Raúl Torrez on his victory in March over social media giants Meta (formerly Facebook). The jury found Meta liable on all counts of failing to warn users about the dangers of its platforms and protect children from sexual predators and ordered the company to pay \$375 million in damages. In a separate New Mexico trial, a young woman victim, plaintiff Kaley, who suffered severe mental health consequences throughout her childhood, won her case against both YouTube and Meta. The tide is turning!

Read more about the import of these trial decisions and the background of Kaley’s story [here](#).

National Night Out 2026 is coming on August 4



Can you help staff MCAP’s display table at one of the county events, in Bowie, Gaithersburg or perhaps one closer to your own home? These are great fun for families with food, activities, give-aways and educational resources, that foster community-building and partnerships with local police departments. Let us hear from you if you’d like to be a part of our efforts! Email us at mcapinc@mcap1.com.

ACTION BOX

- ❖ MCAP is in great need of board members and administrative help. We also need volunteers to staff our exhibit tables this summer at back-to-school fairs and the National Night Out event, August 4, in partnership with local police departments. **Please** email mcapinc@mcap1.com if you can help.
- ❖ See article about the online game “5 Nights at Epstein’s” and recommended actions.
- ❖ Oppose POPA, the federal bill known as the Parents Over Platforms Act. Please see our [website](#).
- ❖ Could your child’s school use a speaker to talk about online dangers? Another nationally renowned speaker, **Chris McKenna** of the [Protect Young Eyes](#) organization is someone MCAP would like to engage. Email us at mcapinc@mcap1.com, if interested.
- ❖ Concerned enough to protest sexualized materials that have been found in local county public school libraries and curricula? See the “Take Back the Classroom” resources from **Capitol Resource Institute**: <https://www.capitolresource.org/>
- ❖ We are so grateful to those of you willing to **subscribe and join MCAP** for \$15 annually. [Paypal](#) or, with no fee, Zeffy at www.protect-maryland-kids.com/donate are easy ways to do this, or checks can be mailed to MCAP, P.O. Box 2868, Silver Spring, MD 20915-2868.



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Silver Spring, MD 20915-2868

P.O. Box 2868

Maryland Coalition Against Pornography