

Combat Online Predators Act

[Public Law 116–249]

[This law has not been amended]

Currency: This publication is a compilation of the text of Public Law 116–249. It was last amended by the public law listed in the As Amended Through note above and below at the bottom of each page of the pdf version and reflects current law through the date of the enactment of the public law listed at <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/comps/>

Note: While this publication does not represent an official version of any Federal statute, substantial efforts have been made to ensure the accuracy of its contents. The official version of Federal law is found in the United States Statutes at Large and in the United States Code. The legal effect to be given to the Statutes at Large and the United States Code is established by statute (1 U.S.C. 112, 204).]

AN ACT To amend title 18, United States Code, with regard to stalking.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. [18 U.S.C. 1 note] SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Combat Online Predators Act”.

SEC. 2. ENHANCED PENALTY FOR STALKERS OF CHILDREN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 110A of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 2261A the following:

“SEC. 2261B. [18 U.S.C. 2261B] Enhanced penalty for stalkers of children

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), if the victim of an offense under section 2261A is under the age of 18 years, the maximum imprisonment for the offense is 5 years greater than the maximum term of imprisonment otherwise provided for that offense in section 2261.

“(b) LIMITATION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to a person who violates section 2261A if—

“(1) the person is subject to a sentence under section 2261(b)(5); and

“(2)(A) the person is under the age of 18 at the time the offense occurred; or

“(B) the victim of the offense is not less than 15 nor more than 17 years of age and not more than 3 years younger than the person who committed the offense at the time the offense occurred. ”.

(b) [22 U.S.C. 2261] CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 110A of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2261A the following new item:

“2261B. Enhanced penalty for stalkers of children.”.

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(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 2261A of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking “section 2261(b) of this title” and inserting “section 2261(b) or section 2261B, as the case may be”.

SEC. 3. REPORT ON BEST PRACTICES REGARDING ENFORCEMENT OF ANTI-STALKING LAWS.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall submit a report to Congress, which shall—

- (1) include an evaluation of Federal, Tribal, State, and local efforts to enforce laws relating to stalking; and
- (2) identify and describe those elements of such efforts that constitute the best practices for the enforcement of such laws.