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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-SECOND SESSION

H. F. No. 232

01/21/2021 Authored by Lucero, Bennett, Akland, Erickson, Poston and others
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Education Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to education; modifying certain school liability provisions; creating a civil
1.3 cause of action; amending Minnesota Statutes 2020, sections 617.291, subdivision
1.4 2; 617.295; 617.296, by adding a subdivision.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 617.291, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

1.7 Subd. 2. Best interest. It is in the best interest of the health, welfare, and safety of the
1.8 citizens of this state, and especially of minors within the state, that commercial dissemination,
1.9 and dissemination without monetary consideration in a place of public accommodation, of
1.10 sexually explicit written, photographic, printed, sound or published materials, and of plays,
1.11 dances, or other exhibitions presented before an audience, that are deemed harmful to minors,
1.12 be restricted to persons over the age of 17 years; or, if available to minors under the age of
1.13 18 years, that the availability of the materials be restricted to sources within established and
1.14 recognized schools, churches, museums, medical clinics and physicians, hospitals, or public
1.15 libraries, or government sponsored organizations.

1.16 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 617.295, is amended to read:

1.17 617.295 EXEMPTIONS.

1.18 The following are exempt from criminal or other action hereunder:

1.19 (1) recognized and established schools, churches, museums, medical clinics and
1.20 physicians, hospitals, or public libraries, governmental agencies or quasi-governmental
1.21 sponsored organizations, and persons acting in their capacity as employees or agents of
1.22 such organization. For the purpose of this section "recognized and established" shall mean

2.1 ~~an organization or agency having a full time faculty and diversified curriculum in the case~~  
2.2 ~~of a school~~; a church affiliated with a national or regional denomination; a licensed physician  
2.3 or psychiatrist or clinic of licensed physicians or psychiatrists; and in all other exempt  
2.4 organizations shall refer only to income tax exempted organizations which are supported  
2.5 in whole or in part by tax funds or which receive at least one-third of their support from  
2.6 publicly donated funds;

2.7 (2) individuals in a parental relationship with the minor; and

2.8 (3) motion picture machine operators, stagehands, or other theatre employees such as  
2.9 cashiers, doorkeepers, ushers, and concession employees, if such person or persons have  
2.10 no financial interest in the entertainment presented other than the salary or wage, or in any  
2.11 theatre or place where such employee has no financial interest when the employee's services  
2.12 are obtained solely for salary or wage; provided, that such employee is under the direct  
2.13 supervision of a theatre manager who is a resident of this state and who is not exempt from  
2.14 action under sections 617.291 to 617.297.

2.15 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 617.296, is amended by adding a subdivision to  
2.16 read:

2.17 Subd. 3. **Parental cause of action.** The parent or legal guardian of a child has a civil  
2.18 cause of action against a school or governmental institution when the school or governmental  
2.19 institution disseminates or otherwise displays to the child obscene material as defined in  
2.20 section 617.241, subdivision 1, paragraph (a). The plaintiff is entitled to recover the greater  
2.21 of \$1,000 or actual general and special damages, including damages for emotional distress.  
2.22 A plaintiff may also obtain reasonable attorney fees and an injunction or other appropriate  
2.23 relief.