# Sextortion House Bill 727

An Overview of Proposed Legislation Addressing Sextortion Crimes

## Introduction

Sextortion is a form of online exploitation where an offender threatens to share sexually explicit images or information about an individual unless certain demands are met—often for more images, money, or other favors. As digital communication and social media become more prevalent, sextortion cases have increased, prompting lawmakers to propose specific legislation to address this crime and protect victims.

## Purpose of the Sextortion Bill

The Sextortion Bill is designed to criminalize and penalize acts of sextortion, ensuring that perpetrators are held accountable and that victims have clear avenues for reporting and seeking justice. The bill typically aims to:

- Define sextortion as a distinct criminal offense, separate from other cybercrimes or extortion offenses.
- Establish clear penalties for individuals found guilty of sextortion.
- Provide resources and support for victims, including counseling and legal assistance.
- Mandate educational initiatives to raise awareness about the risks of sextortion and how to prevent it.
- Ensure law enforcement agencies have adequate training and tools to investigate and prosecute sextortion cases.

## Key Provisions of the Bill

- **Criminalization:** The bill makes it illegal to threaten to distribute intimate or sexually explicit material to coerce a person into providing additional images, money, or other favors.
- **Penalties:** Offenders may face fines, imprisonment, or both, depending on the severity and circumstances of the offense.
- **Victim Protection:** The legislation may include provisions for the anonymity of victims during investigations and court proceedings, as well as access to support services.
- **Jurisdiction:** Recognizing that sextortion often occurs online and can cross state or national boundaries, the bill may include measures to facilitate interstate and international cooperation.
- **Prevention and Education:** The bill encourages or mandates educational programs in schools and communities to prevent sextortion and inform the public about reporting mechanisms.

## Why Is Sextortion Legislation Important?

Sextortion can have devastating emotional, psychological, and financial effects on victims. Existing laws may not adequately address the specific nature of this crime, leaving gaps in legal protection and in the ability to prosecute offenders. A dedicated Sextortion Bill acknowledges the unique harms caused by this crime and offers a comprehensive legal framework to combat it.

## Conclusion

The Sextortion Bill represents a significant step forward in modernizing laws to address the realities of digital abuse and exploitation. By defining, criminalizing, and establishing clear penalties for sextortion, the bill seeks to deter offenders, support victims, and foster safer online environments for all.

FBI - National Sextortion Victims 2021 – 2023: over 12,000 Victims

Sextortion Tips in Idaho:

2024 – 107, 2025 – 197,  January 2026 -25