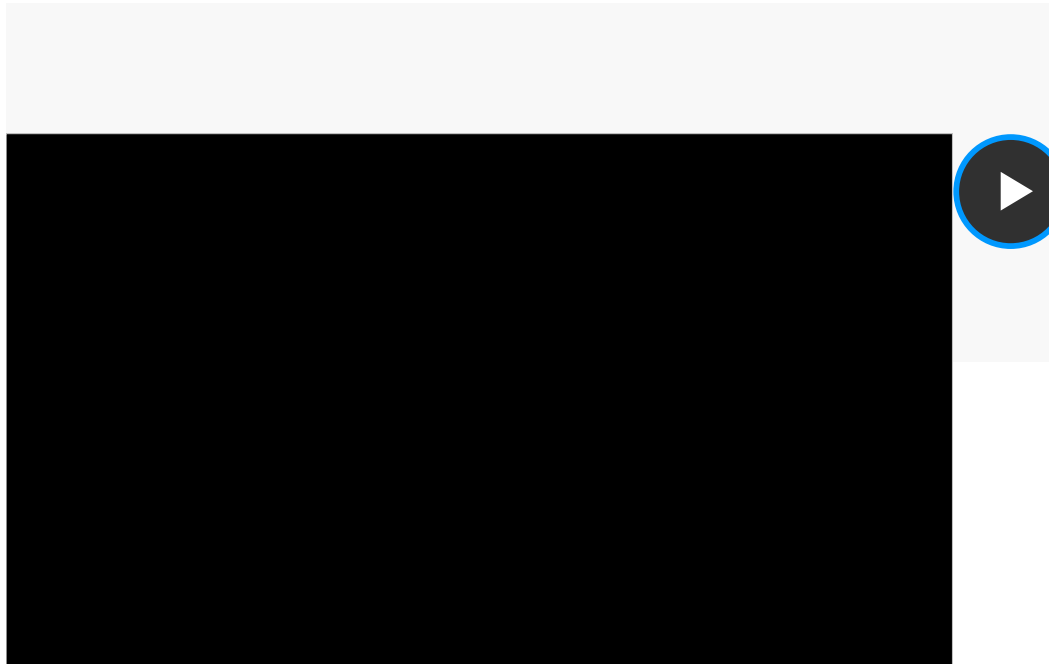


STATE

Oklahoma Sen. Dusty Deever proposes bill to ban all pornography: What to know about SB593

 **Josh Kelly** The Oklahoman

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Five key issues for Oklahoma 2025 Legislature

The first session of the 60th Oklahoma Legislature will begin Monday, Feb. 3.

A bill proposed by Oklahoma Sen. Dusty Deever, R-Elgin, seeks to raise punishment for child pornography but also aims to ban pornography altogether.

In January, Deever introduced a slate of eight bills aimed at “restoring moral sanity in Oklahoma,” according to a [press release](#). The slate includes bills that

would prohibit drag performances for children, self-managed medication abortions, and no-fault divorce, among others.

One measure, Senate Bill 593, aims to heighten penalties for producing, possessing or distributing sexual material depicting minors. Oklahoma statutes use the term "child sexual abuse material" to refer to what was previously called "child pornography" after House Bill 3936 was signed into law in 2024.

More: [What to know about an Oklahoma senator's efforts to 'restore moral sanity' in his state](#)

“We can restore normalcy, decency, and morality; we can protect the most vulnerable, restore a high view of marriage, and shield children from explicit material that can warp their innocent minds. We simply must have the courage to stand against the most radical and degenerate elements of the far-left,” Deever wrote in a [press release](#).

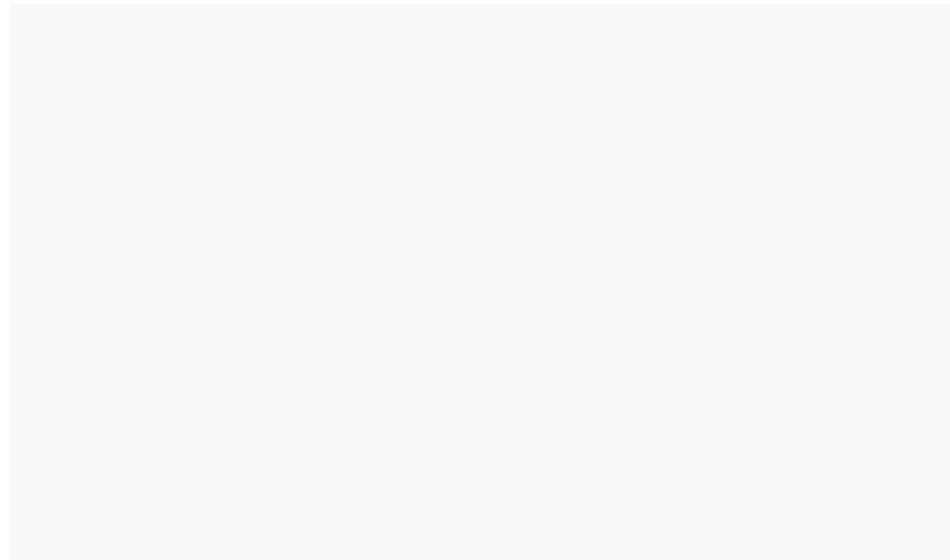
If passed, anyone found guilty of possessing, purchasing, trafficking or viewing the material would face imprisonment of 10-30 years instead of 0-20 years. Additionally, instead of the \$25,000 cap previously outlined in Oklahoma law, they can be fined no more than \$250,000. Repeat offenders will face 15-50 years and a fine of no more than \$300,000.

Would SB 593 make porn illegal in Oklahoma?

The second portion of the bill, if passed, would prohibit pornography in general. This marks the second attempt by the senator to outlaw pornography throughout the state.

The measure would broaden language in Oklahoma law to make it illegal to possess, purchase or distribute "unlawful pornography," which is defined as any depiction, image, or film that shows sexual conduct, intercourse or lewd exhibition of genitals for sexual stimulation of the viewer.

The measure would not prevent spouses from sending images of a sexual nature to each other.



Deevers said that by not limiting how porn is spread or created, it can have negative impacts on different parts of society.

“Pornography is both degenerate material and a highly addictive drug,” Deevers wrote in a press release. “It ruins marriages, ruins lives, destroys innocence, warps young people’s perception of the opposite sex, turns women into objects, turns men into objects, degrades human dignity and corrodes the moral fabric of society. Any decent society will stand against this plague with the full weight of the law.”

If passed, anyone convicted of buying, procuring, viewing, trafficking or possessing unlawful pornography will be guilty of a felony and punishable by imprisonment of no more than 10 years and a fine of no more than \$100,000.

The bill has only been introduced and has not received any committee reports.

Reaction to the proposed bill

Critics of the bill say it violates the First Amendment. Mike Stabile, director of public policy for the Free Speech Coalition, said legislators shouldn't attempt to

restrict what constituents access in their own homes.

"Senator Deever is welcome to choose what books he might read and what movies he might see — he does not have the right to inspect the bookshelves and phones of Oklahomans for legal material he finds morally objectionable," Stabile said.

Stabile cited the bill's overlap of child sexual abuse material and adults viewing porn as a way to "sway the public."

"He's attempting to pass a grossly invasive censorship bill by trying to link legal adult content, produced by and for adults, with vile and illegal abuse content, hoping it will be enough to sway the public. He attempted the same last year, and it failed," Stabile said.

In a statement to The Oklahoman, Deever clarified that the idea that pornography is speech protected by the First Amendment is a "widely held myth."

He cited the Supreme Court ruling in *Miller v. California*, which decided that content must meet three thresholds to be obscene and prohibited. These thresholds include the application of community standards, depictions or descriptions in a patently offensive manner defined by state law and the lack of serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value.

"There is no question that modern pornography meets the standard of prongs 1

and 3. The only thing missing is prong 2: an Oklahoma law defining and prohibiting pornography. That is where SB593 comes in," Deever said.

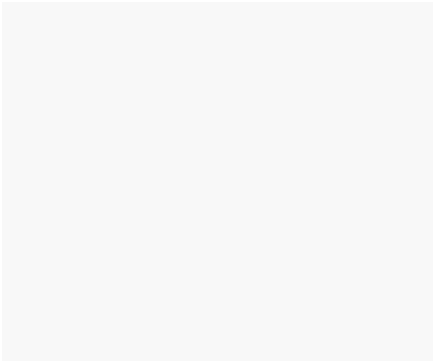
"The first amendment was drafted by our founding fathers in 1791, a time when Sabbath rest was legally enforced in many states. It is silly to suggest that the founding fathers intended for their words to, in the future, guarantee that prostitution footage could be recorded and posted for anyone with access to the internet to view," he said.

Current age verification laws

Deever's bill comes after many states, Oklahoma included, have passed laws that require age verification to access pornography. According to the [Age Verification Providers Association](#), the following states have passed such laws.

- Louisiana
- Utah
- Mississippi
- Virginia
- Arkansas
- Texas
- Montana
- North Carolina
- Idaho
- Kansas
- Kentucky
- Nebraska
- Indiana
- Alabama
- Florida
- South Carolina
- Tennessee
- Georgia





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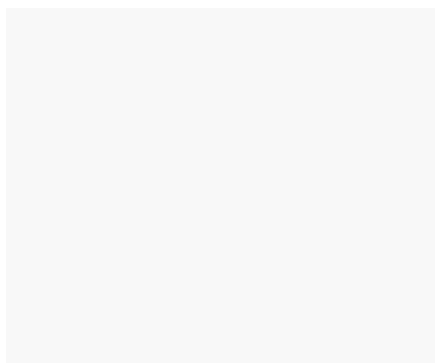
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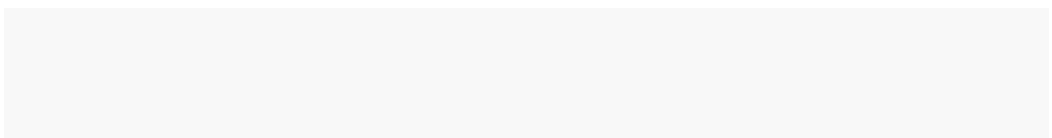
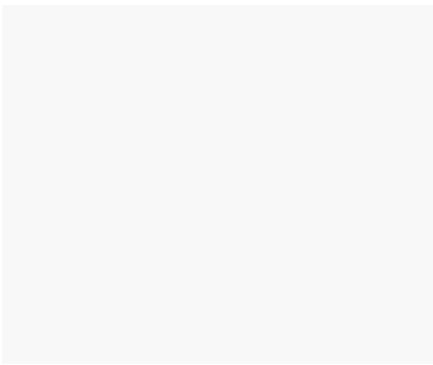
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