As Reported by the Senate Judiciary Committee

135th General Assembly

Regular Session

Sub. H. B. No. 531

2023-2024

Representatives Lear, Lorenz

Cosponsors: Representatives Brennan, Johnson, Williams, Click, Robb Blasdel, Richardson, Dean, Abrams, LaRe, Miller, K., Abdullahi, Barhorst, Bird, Blackshear, Brent, Brewer, Brown, Callender, Carruthers, Claggett, Cross, Cutrona, Daniels, Dell'Aquila, Demetriou, Denson, Dobos, Edwards, Forhan, Fowler Arthur, Gross, Hall, Hillyer, Hoops, Jarrells, John, Jones, Kick, King, Lampton, Lipps, Liston, Loychik, Mathews, Miller, A., Miller, M., Mohamed, Patton, Pavliga, Peterson, Piccolantonio, Plummer, Ray, Rogers, Schmidt, Sims, Somani, Stein, Swearingen, Sweeney, Upchurch, White, Whitted, Young, T.

Senator Manning

A BILL

То	amend sections 2137.15, 2905.11, 2929.12, and	1
	2933.51 and to enact sections 2905.111 and	2
	2933.523 of the Revised Code to enact Braden's	3
	Law to prohibit sexual extortion and to require	4
	service providers to comply with search warrants	5
	and interception warrants for electronic	6
	information.	7

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That sections 2137.15, 2905.11, 2929.12, and	8
2933.51 be amended and sections 2905.111 and 2933.523 of the	9
Revised Code be enacted to read as follows:	10
Sec. 2137.15. (A) Not later than sixty days after receipt	11
of the information required under sections 2137.06 to 2137.13 of	12

principal;

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the Revised Code, a custodian shall comply with a request under	13
this chapter from a fiduciary or designated recipient to	14
disclose digital assets or terminate an account. If the	15
custodian fails to comply, the fiduciary or designated recipient	16
may apply to the court for an order directing compliance. If the	17
deceased user was less than eighteen years of age at the time of	18
death and the request under this chapter was initiated by a	19
parent or legal custodian or guardian at the time of the	20
deceased user's death, or the fiduciary of the estate of that	21
deceased user, the court shall determine and adjudicate the	22
application for a court order within thirty days after	23
submission.	24
(B) An order under division (A) of this section directing	25
compliance shall contain a finding that compliance is not in	26
violation of 18 U.S.C. 2702, as amended.	27
(C) A custodian may notify the user that a request for	28
disclosure or to terminate an account was made under this	29
chapter.	30
(D) A custodian may deny a request under this chapter from	31
a fiduciary or designated recipient for disclosure of digital	32
assets or to terminate an account if the custodian is aware of	33
any lawful access to the account following the receipt of the	34
fiduciary's request.	35
(E) Nothing in this chapter limits a custodian's ability	36
to obtain, or to require a guardian, agent, or designated	37
recipient requesting disclosure or termination under this	38
chapter to obtain, a court order that does all of the following:	39
(1) Specifies that an account belongs to the ward or	40

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(3) If the offender has previously been convicted of or	125
pleaded guilty to two or more violations of division (D) of this	126
section or if the offender has previously been convicted of or	127
pleaded guilty to an offense involving sexual extortion of a	128
person under the age of eighteen, an elderly person, or a	129
disabled adult and the offender knows or has reason to know that	130
the person is under the age of eighteen, an elderly person, or a	131
disabled adult, sexual extortion is a felony of the first	132
degree.	133
(F) A prosecution for a violation of division (D) of this	134
section does not preclude a prosecution of a violation of	135
division (B) of this section. One or more acts, a series of	136
acts, or a course of behavior that can be prosecuted under	137
division (D) of this section or division (B) of this section may	138
be prosecuted under division (D) of this section, division (B)	139
of this section, or both divisions. However, if an offender is	140
convicted of or pleads guilty to a violation of division (D) of	141
this section and also is convicted of or pleads guilty to a	142
violation of division (B) of this section based on the same	143
conduct involving the same victim that was the basis of the	144
violation of division (D) of this section, the two offenses are	145
allied offenses of similar import under section 2941.25 of the	146
Revised Code.	147
(G)(1) No person shall assert a cause of action in any	148
court of this state against any provider of an information	149
service, an interactive computer service, or a	150
telecommunications service, or against any agent, employee, or	151
officer of such provider, for any injury, death, or loss to	152
person or property that allegedly arises out of the provider's,	153
officer's, employee's, or agent's provision of information,	154
facilities, or assistance in accordance with the terms of a	155

<pre>court order that is issued in relation to the investigation or</pre>	156
prosecution of an alleged violation of division (D) of this	157
section.	158
(2) A provider of an information service, an interactive	159
computer service, or a telecommunications service, or any agent,	160
employee, or officer of such provider, is immune from any civil	161
or criminal liability for injury, death, or loss to person or	162
property that allegedly arises out of the provider's, officer's,	163
employee's, or agent's provision of information, facilities, or	164
assistance in accordance with the terms of a court order that is	165
issued in relation to the investigation or prosecution of an	166
alleged violation of division (D) of this section.	167
(H)(1)(a) A person shall not be considered to have	168
violated division (D) of this section solely for providing	169
access or connection to or from an electronic method of remotely	170
transferring information not under that person's control,	171
including having provided capabilities that are incidental to	172
providing access or connection to or from the electronic method	173
of remotely transferring the information and that do not include	174
the creation of the content of the material that is the subject	175
of the access or connection.	176
(b) Any person providing access or connection to or from	177
an electronic method of remotely transferring information not	178
under that person's control shall not be liable for any action	179
voluntarily taken in good faith to block the receipt or	180
transmission through its service of any information that the	181
person believes is, or will be, sent in violation of division	182
(D) of this section.	183
(2) Division (H)(1) of this section does not create an	184
affirmative duty for any person providing access or connection	185

to or from an electronic method of remotely transferring	186
information not under that person's control to block the receipt	187
or transmission through its service of any information that it	188
believes is, or will be sent, in violation of division (D) of	189
this section, except as otherwise provided by law.	190
(3) Division (H)(1) of this section does not apply to a	191
person who conspires with another person actively involved in	192
the creation or knowing distribution of material in violation of	193
division (D) of this section, or who knowingly advertises the	194
availability of material of that nature.	195
(4) (a) A provider or user of an interactive computer_	196
service shall neither be treated as the publisher nor speaker of	197
any information provided by another information content	198
provider, nor shall such a person be held civilly or criminally	199
liable for the creation or development of information provided	200
by another information content provider.	201
(b) Nothing in division (H)(4)(a) of this section shall be	202
construed as protecting a person from liability to the extent	203
that the person developed or created any content in violation of	204
division (D) of this section.	205
Sec. 2905.111. Notwithstanding any provision of the	206
Revised Code to the contrary, no person shall be convicted of an	207
offense, and no child shall be adjudicated a delinquent child,	208
for disseminating private images of that person or child to	209
another person as a direct and proximate result of a violation	210
of division (D) of section 2905.11 of the Revised Code in which	211
the person or child was a victim.	212
Sec. 2929.12. (A) Unless otherwise required by section	213
2929.13 or 2929.14 of the Revised Code, a court that imposes a	214

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sentence under this chapter upon an offender for a felony has	215
discretion to determine the most effective way to comply with	216
the purposes and principles of sentencing set forth in section	217
2929.11 of the Revised Code. In exercising that discretion, the	218
court shall consider the factors set forth in divisions (B) and	219
(C) of this section relating to the seriousness of the conduct,	220
the factors provided in divisions (D) and (E) of this section	221
relating to the likelihood of the offender's recidivism, and the	222
factors set forth in division (F) of this section pertaining to	223
the offender's service in the armed forces of the United States	224
and, in addition, may consider any other factors that are	225
relevant to achieving those purposes and principles of	226
sentencing.	227
(B) The sentencing court shall consider all of the	228
following that apply regarding the offender, the offense, or the	229
victim, and any other relevant factors, as indicating that the	230
offender's conduct is more serious than conduct normally	231
constituting the offense:	232
(1) The physical or mental injury suffered by the victim	233
of the offense due to the conduct of the offender was	234
exacerbated because of the physical or mental condition or age	235
of the victim.	236
(2) The victim of the offense suffered serious physical,	237
psychological, or economic harm, including serious physical harm	238
the victim caused to the victim's self, as a result of the	239
offense.	240
(3) The victim died by suicide as a result of the offense.	241
(4) The offender held a public office or position of trust	242

in the community, and the offense related to that office or

position.	244
$\frac{(4)}{(5)}$ The offender's occupation, elected office, or	245
profession obliged the offender to prevent the offense or bring	246
others committing it to justice.	247
(5)(6) The offender's professional reputation or	248
occupation, elected office, or profession was used to facilitate	249
the offense or is likely to influence the future conduct of	250
others.	251
(6)(7) The offender's relationship with the victim	252
facilitated the offense.	253
$\frac{(7)(8)}{(8)}$ The offender committed the offense for hire or as a	254
part of an organized criminal activity.	255
$\frac{(8)(9)}{(9)}$ In committing the offense, the offender was	256
motivated by prejudice based on race, ethnic background, gender,	257
sexual orientation, or religion.	258
$\frac{(9)(10)}{(10)}$ If the offense is a violation of section 2919.25	259
or a violation of section 2903.11, 2903.12, or 2903.13 of the	260
Revised Code involving a person who was a family or household	261
member at the time of the violation, the offender committed the	262
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	263
offense in the vicinity of one or more children who are not	264
- vici ima or the offense, and the offender of the VICI III of 100	/ r) 4

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(C) The sentencing court shall consider all of the following that apply regarding the offender, the offense, or the victim, and any other relevant factors, as indicating that the offender's conduct is less serious than conduct normally constituting the offense:

offense is a parent, guardian, custodian, or person in loco

parentis of one or more of those children.

(1) The victim induced or facilitated the offense.	272
(2) In committing the offense, the offender acted under	273
strong provocation.	274
(3) In committing the offense, the offender did not cause	275
or expect to cause physical harm to any person or property.	276
(4) There are substantial grounds to mitigate the	277
offender's conduct, although the grounds are not enough to	278
constitute a defense.	279
(D) The sentencing court shall consider all of the	280
following that apply regarding the offender, and any other	281
relevant factors, as factors indicating that the offender is	282
likely to commit future crimes:	283
(1) At the time of committing the offense, the offender	284
was under release from confinement before trial or sentencing;	285
was under a sanction imposed pursuant to section 2929.16,	286
2929.17, or 2929.18 of the Revised Code; was under post-release	287
control pursuant to section 2967.28 or any other provision of	288
the Revised Code for an earlier offense or had been unfavorably	289
terminated from post-release control for a prior offense	290
pursuant to division (B) of section 2967.16 or section 2929.141	291
of the Revised Code; was under transitional control in	292
connection with a prior offense; or had absconded from the	293
offender's approved community placement resulting in the	294
offender's removal from the transitional control program under	295
section 2967.26 of the Revised Code.	296
(2) The offender previously was adjudicated a delinquent	297
child pursuant to Chapter 2151. of the Revised Code prior to	298
January 1, 2002, or pursuant to Chapter 2152. of the Revised	299
Code, or the offender has a history of criminal convictions.	300

(3) The offender has not been rehabilitated to a	301
satisfactory degree after previously being adjudicated a	302
delinquent child pursuant to Chapter 2151. of the Revised Code	303
prior to January 1, 2002, or pursuant to Chapter 2152. of the	304
Revised Code, or the offender has not responded favorably to	305
sanctions previously imposed for criminal convictions.	306
(4) The offender has demonstrated a pattern of drug or	307
alcohol abuse that is related to the offense, and the offender	308
refuses to acknowledge that the offender has demonstrated that	309
pattern, or the offender refuses treatment for the drug or	310
alcohol abuse.	311
(5) The offender shows no genuine remorse for the offense.	312
(E) The sentencing court shall consider all of the	313
following that apply regarding the offender, and any other	314
relevant factors, as factors indicating that the offender is not	315
likely to commit future crimes:	316
(1) Prior to committing the offense, the offender had not	317
been adjudicated a delinquent child.	318
(2) Prior to committing the offense, the offender had not	319
been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a criminal offense.	320
(3) Prior to committing the offense, the offender had led	321
a law-abiding life for a significant number of years.	322
(4) The offense was committed under circumstances not	323
likely to recur.	324
(5) The offender shows genuine remorse for the offense.	325
(F) The sentencing court shall consider the offender's	326
military service record and whether the offender has an	327
emotional, mental, or physical condition that is traceable to	328

justifying that expectation. "Oral communication" does not

include an electronic communication.

(C) "Intercept" means the aural or other acquisition of
the contents of any wire, oral, or electronic communication

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through the use of an interception device.

(D) "Interception device" means an electronic, mechanical,
or other device or apparatus that can be used to intercept a
wire, oral, or electronic communication. "Interception device"
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does not mean any of the following:
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(1) A telephone or telegraph instrument, equipment, or

facility, or any of its components, if the instrument,	358
equipment, facility, or component is any of the following:	359
(a) Furnished to the subscriber or user by a provider of	360
wire or electronic communication service in the ordinary course	361
of its business and being used by the subscriber or user in the	362
ordinary course of its business;	363
(b) Furnished by a subscriber or user for connection to	364
the facilities of a provider of wire or electronic communication	365
service and used in the ordinary course of that subscriber's or	366
user's business;	367
(a) Daing wood by a provider of vive or electronic	368
(c) Being used by a provider of wire or electronic	
communication service in the ordinary course of its business or	369
by an investigative or law enforcement officer in the ordinary	370
course of the officer's duties that do not involve the	371
interception of wire, oral, or electronic communications.	372
(2) A hearing aid or similar device being used to correct	373
subnormal hearing to not better than normal.	374
(E) "Investigative officer" means any of the following:	375
(1) An officer of this state or a political subdivision of	376
this state, who is empowered by law to conduct investigations or	377
to make arrests for a designated offense;	378
(2) A person described in divisions (A)(11)(a) and (b) of	379
section 2901.01 of the Revised Code;	380
(3) An attorney authorized by law to prosecute or	381
participate in the prosecution of a designated offense;	382
(4) A secret service officer appointed pursuant to section	383
309.07 of the Revised Code;	384

(5) An officer of the United States, a state, or a	385
political subdivision of a state who is authorized to conduct	386
investigations pursuant to the "Electronic Communications	387
Privacy Act of 1986," 100 Stat. 1848-1857, 18 U.S.C. 2510-2521	388
(1986), as amended.	389
(F) "Interception warrant" means a court order that	390
authorizes the interception of wire, oral, or electronic	391
communications and that is issued pursuant to sections 2933.53	392
to 2933.56 of the Revised Code.	393
(G) "Contents," when used with respect to a wire, oral, or	394
electronic communication, includes any information concerning	395
the substance, purport, or meaning of the communication.	396
(H) "Communications common carrier" means a person who is	397
engaged as a common carrier for hire in intrastate, interstate,	398
or foreign communications by wire, radio, or radio transmission	399
of energy. "Communications common carrier" does not include, to	400
the extent that the person is engaged in radio broadcasting, a	401
person engaged in radio broadcasting.	402
(I) "Designated offense" means any of the following:	403
(1) A felony violation of section 1315.53, 1315.55,	404
2903.01, 2903.02, 2903.11, 2905.01, 2905.02, 2905.11, 2905.22,	405
2905.32, 2907.02, 2907.21, 2907.22, 2909.02, 2909.03, 2909.04,	406
2909.22, 2909.23, 2909.24, 2909.26, 2909.27, 2909.28, 2909.29,	407
2911.01, 2911.02, 2911.11, 2911.12, 2913.02, 2913.04, 2913.42,	408
2913.51, 2915.02, 2915.03, 2917.01, 2917.02, 2921.02, 2921.03,	409
2921.04, 2921.32, 2921.34, 2923.20, 2923.32, 2925.03, 2925.04,	410
2925.05, or 2925.06 or of division (B) of section 2915.05 or of	411
division (E) or (G) of section 3772.99 of the Revised Code;	412
(2) A violation of section 2919.23 of the Revised Code	413

that, had it occurred prior to July 1, 1996, would have been a	414
violation of section 2905.04 of the Revised Code as it existed	415
prior to that date;	416
(3) A felony violation of section 2925.11 of the Revised	417
Code that is not a minor drug possession offense, as defined in	418
section 2925.01 of the Revised Code;	419
(4) Complicity in the commission of a felony violation of	420
a section listed in division (I)(1), (2), or (3) of this	421
section;	422
(5) An attempt to commit, or conspiracy in the commission	423
of, a felony violation of a section listed in division (I)(1),	424
(2), or (3) of this section, if the attempt or conspiracy is	425
punishable by a term of imprisonment of more than one year.	426
(J) "Aggrieved person" means a person who was a party to	427
an intercepted wire, oral, or electronic communication or a	428
person against whom the interception of the communication was	429
directed.	430
(K) "Person" means a person, as defined in section 1.59 of	431
the Revised Code, or a governmental officer, employee, or	432
entity.	433
(L) "Special need" means a showing that a licensed	434
physician, licensed practicing psychologist, attorney,	435
practicing cleric, journalist, or either spouse is personally	436
engaging in continuing criminal activity, was engaged in	437
continuing criminal activity over a period of time, or is	438
committing, has committed, or is about to commit, a designated	439
offense, or a showing that specified public facilities are being	440
regularly used by someone who is personally engaging in	441
continuing criminal activity, was engaged in continuing criminal	442

activity over a period of time, or is committing, has committed,	443
or is about to commit, a designated offense.	444
(M) "Journalist" means a person engaged in, connected	445
with, or employed by, any news media, including a newspaper,	446
magazine, press association, news agency, or wire service, a	447
radio or television station, or a similar media, for the purpose	448
of gathering, processing, transmitting, compiling, editing, or	449
disseminating news for the general public.	450
(N) "Electronic communication" means a transfer of a sign,	451
signal, writing, image, sound, datum, or intelligence of any	452
nature that is transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio,	453
electromagnetic, photoelectronic, or photo-optical system.	454
"Electronic communication" does not mean any of the following:	455
(1) A wire or oral communication;	456
(2) A communication made through a tone-only paging	457
device;	458
(3) A communication from an electronic or mechanical	459
tracking device that permits the tracking of the movement of a	460
person or object.	461
(O) "User" means a person or entity that uses an	462
electronic communication service and is duly authorized by the	463
provider of the service to engage in the use of the electronic	464
communication service.	465
(P) "Electronic communications system" means a wire,	466
radio, electromagnetic, photoelectronic, or photo-optical	467
facility for the transmission of electronic communications, and	468
a computer facility or related electronic equipment for the	469
electronic storage of electronic communications.	470

(Q) "Electronic communication service" means a service	471
that provides to users of the service the ability to send or	472
receive wire or electronic communications.	473
(R) "Readily accessible to the general public" means, with	474
respect to a radio communication, that the communication is none	475
of the following:	476
(1) Scrambled or encrypted;	477
(2) Transmitted using a modulation technique, the	478
essential parameters of which have been withheld from the public	479
with the intention of preserving the privacy of the	480
communication;	481
(3) Carried on a subcarrier or other signal subsidiary to	482
a radio transmission;	483
(4) Transmitted over a communications system provided by a	484
communications common carrier, unless the communication is a	485
tone-only paging system communication;	486
(5) Transmitted on a frequency allocated under part 25,	487
subpart D, E, or F of part 74, or part 94 of the Rules of the	488
Federal Communications Commission, as those provisions existed	489
on July 1, 1996, unless, in the case of a communication	490
transmitted on a frequency allocated under part 74 that is not	491
exclusively allocated to broadcast auxiliary services, the	492
communication is a two-way voice communication by radio.	493
(S) "Electronic storage" means a temporary, intermediate	494
storage of a wire or electronic communication that is incidental	495
to the electronic transmission of the communication, and a	496
storage of a wire or electronic communication by an electronic	497
communication service for the purpose of backup protection of	498
the communication.	499

(T) "Aural transfer" means a transfer containing the human	500
voice at a point between and including the point of origin and	501
the point of reception.	502
(U) "Pen register" means a device that records or decodes	503
electronic impulses that identify the numbers dialed, pulsed, or	504
otherwise transmitted on telephone lines to which the device is	505
attached.	506
(V) "Trap and trace device" means a device that captures	507
the incoming electronic or other impulses that identify the	508
originating number of an instrument or device from which a wire	509
communication or electronic communication was transmitted but	510
that does not intercept the contents of the wire communication	511
or electronic communication.	512
(W) "Judge of a court of common pleas" means a judge of	513
that court who is elected or appointed as a judge of general	514
jurisdiction or as a judge who exercises both general	515
jurisdiction and probate, domestic relations, or juvenile	516
jurisdiction. "Judge of a court of common pleas" does not mean a	517
judge of that court who is elected or appointed specifically as	518
a probate, domestic relations, or juvenile judge.	519
(X) "Electronic user data" means any data or records that	520
are stored, collected, used, or safeguarded by a service or	521
program that stores electronic data. This includes data stored	522
on a computer, computer network, or computer system.	523
(Y) "Remote computing service" means the provision of	524
computer storage or processing services to the public through an	525
electronic communication service.	526
Sec. 2933.523. (A) A provider of an electronic	527
communication service or a provider of remote computing service	528

operating in the state shall comply with any court-issued search	529
warrant or interception warrant issued for wire communications,	530
electronic communications, an electronic communications system,	531
or other electronic storage or data storage, regardless of	532
whether user data is held at a location within the state or at a	533
location in another state.	534
(B) A court may issue an order under this section on a	535
service provider that is a corporation or entity that is	536
incorporated or organized in this state, or a company or	537
business entity doing business in this state under a contract or	538
terms of a service agreement with a state resident. The service	539
provider shall produce all information sought, as required by	540
the court order.	541
Section 2. That existing sections 2137.15, 2905.11,	542
2929.12, and 2933.51 of the Revised Code are hereby repealed.	543
Section 3. Sections 2137.15, 2905.11, and 2905.111 of the	544
Revised Code as amended or enacted by this act shall be known as	545
Braden's Law.	546