

Act No. 216  
Public Acts of 1992  
Approved by the Governor  
October 8, 1992  
Filed with the Secretary of State  
October 9, 1992

**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
86TH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 1992**

Introduced by Rep. Walberg

# **ENROLLED HOUSE BILL No. 5148**

AN ACT to amend sections 2, 5, and 7 of Act No. 343 of the Public Acts of 1984, entitled "An act to define and prohibit the possession or dissemination of obscene material under certain circumstances; to prohibit conduct related thereto; to provide penalties; to prohibit local units of government from enacting or enforcing any law, ordinance, or rule pertaining to matters under this act; and to repeal certain acts and parts of acts," being sections 752.362, 752.365, and 752.367 of the Michigan Compiled Laws; and to repeal certain parts of the act.

*The People of the State of Michigan enact:*

Section 1. Sections 2, 5, and 7 of Act No. 343 of the Public Acts of 1984, being sections 752.362, 752.365, and 752.367 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, are amended to read as follows:

Sec. 2. (1) "Contemporary community standards" means the customary limits of candor and decency in this state at or near the time of the alleged violation of this act.

(2) "Disseminate" means to manufacture, sell, lend, rent, publish, exhibit, or lease to the public for commercial gain or to offer or agree to manufacture, sell, lend, rent, publish, exhibit, or lease to the public for commercial gain.

(3) "Knowledge of content and character" means having general knowledge of the nature and character of the material involved. Knowledge of content and character may be proven by direct evidence or by circumstantial evidence, or both.

(4) "Material" means anything tangible that is capable of being used or adapted to arouse prurient interest, whether through the medium of reading, observation, sound, or in any other manner, including but not limited to, anything printed or written, any book, magazine, newspaper, pamphlet, picture, drawing, pictorial representation, motion picture, photograph, video tape, video disk, film, transparency, slide, audiotape, audiodisk, computer tape, or any other medium used to electronically produce or reproduce images on a screen, or any mechanical, chemical, or electronic reproduction. Material includes undeveloped photographs, molds, printing plates, and other latent representational objects whether or not processing or other acts are required to make the content of the material apparent.

(5) "Obscene" means any material that meets all of the following criteria:

(a) The average individual, applying contemporary community standards, would find the material, taken as a whole, appeals to the prurient interest.

(b) The reasonable person would find the material, taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.

(c) The material depicts or describes sexual conduct in a patently offensive way.

Sec. 5. (1) A person is guilty of obscenity when, knowing the content and character of the material, the person disseminates, or possesses with intent to disseminate, any obscene material.

(2) Obscenity is a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for not more than 1 year, or by a fine of not more than \$100,000.00, or both.

(3) A person convicted of a second or subsequent offense under this section is guilty of a felony and may be imprisoned for not more than 2 years, and shall be fined not less than \$50,000.00 or more than \$5,000,000.00. For purposes of this section, an offense is considered a second or subsequent offense if the defendant has previously been convicted under this section or under any similar statute of the United States or of any state.

Sec. 7. Section 5 does not apply to the dissemination of obscene material by any of the following:

(a) An individual who disseminates obscene material in the course of his or her duties as an employee of, or as a member of the board of directors of, any of the following:

(i) A public or private college, university, or vocational school.

(ii) A library established by this state or a library established by a county, city, township, village, or other local unit of government or authority or combination of local units of government and authorities or a library established by a community college district.

(iii) A public or private not for profit art museum that is exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the internal revenue code.

(b) An individual who disseminates obscene material in the course of the individual's employment and does not have discretion with regard to that dissemination or is not involved in the management of the employer.

(c) Any portion of a business regulated by the federal communications commission.

(d) A cable television operator that is subject to the communications act of 1934, chapter 652, 48 Stat. 1064.

Section 2. Sections 6, 11, 12, and 13 of Act No. 343 of the Public Acts of 1984, being sections 752.366, 752.371, 752.372, and 752.373 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, are repealed.

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Clerk of the House of Representatives.

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Secretary of the Senate.

Approved .....

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Governor.