

New law defines cyberbullying as the transmission of any electronic textual, visual, written, or oral communication with the malicious and willful intent to coerce, abuse, torment, or intimidate a person under the age of 18.

New law defines "cable operator", "electronic textual, visual, written, or oral communication", "interactive computer service", and "telecommunications service".

New law provides an exception for providers of interactive computer services, providers of telecommunications services, and cable operators.

New law provides that whoever commits the crime of cyberbullying shall be fined not more than \$500, imprisoned for not more than six months, or both. When the offender is under the age of 17, the disposition of the matter shall be governed exclusively by the Families in Need of Services provisions of the Children's Code.

New law further provides that new law shall not be construed to prohibit or restrict religious free speech pursuant to Article I, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana.

Effective August 15, 2010.

(Adds R.S. 14:40.7 and Ch.C. Art. 730(11))