No. 17. An act relating to use of facial recognition technology by law enforcement in cases involving sexual exploitation of children.

(H.195)

It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

Sec. 1. USE OF FACIAL RECOGNITION TECHNOLOGY BY LAW

ENFORCEMENT IN CASES INVOLVING SEXUAL

EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

(a) Notwithstanding 2020 Acts and Resolves No. 166, Sec. 14, the General Assembly authorizes the use of facial recognition technology by law enforcement during a criminal investigation into sexual exploitation of children under 13 V.S.A. chapter 64.

(b) Use of facial recognition technology authorized by subsection (a) of this section shall be utilized only where law enforcement is in possession of an image of an individual they believe to be a victim, potential victim, or identified suspect in the investigation, and the search is solely confined to locating images, including videos, of that individual within electronic media legally seized by law enforcement in relation to the specific investigation.

Sec. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE

This act shall take effect on passage.

Date Governor signed bill: May 4, 2021