



General Assembly

January Session, 2025

**Committee Bill No. 5474**

LCO No. 5327



Referred to Committee on COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN

Introduced by:  
(KID)

**AN ACT CONCERNING SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS AND MINORS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1       Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2025*) (a) As used in this section:
- 2       (1) "Consumer" means an individual who is a resident of this state
- 3       and a user of a social media platform;
- 4       (2) "Cyberbullying" means any unwanted and aggressive behavior on
- 5       a social media platform;
- 6       (3) "Mental health services" has the same meaning as provided in
- 7       section 19a-498c of the general statutes;
- 8       (4) "Owner" means a person who owns a social media platform;
- 9       (5) "Person" means an individual, association, corporation, limited
- 10       liability company, partnership, trust or other legal entity; and
- 11       (6) "Social media platform" has the same meaning as provided in
- 12       section 42-528 of the general statutes.
- 13       (b) Not later than January 1, 2026, each owner of a social media

14 platform shall incorporate an online safety center into the social media  
15 platform. Each online safety center shall, at a minimum, provide the  
16 consumers who use such social media platform with:

17 (1) Resources for the purposes of (A) preventing cyberbullying on  
18 such social media platform, and (B) enabling each consumer to identify  
19 any means available to such consumer to obtain mental health services,  
20 including, but not limited to, an Internet web site address or telephone  
21 number where such consumer may obtain mental health services for the  
22 treatment of an anxiety disorder or the prevention of suicide;

23 (2) An explanation of such social media platform's mechanism for  
24 reporting harmful or unwanted behavior, including, but not limited to,  
25 cyberbullying, on such social media platform; and

26 (3) Educational information concerning the impact that social media  
27 platforms have on users' mental health.

28 (c) Not later than January 1, 2026, each owner of a social media  
29 platform shall establish a cyberbullying policy for the social media  
30 platform. Such policy shall, at a minimum, set forth the manner in which  
31 such owner handles reports of cyberbullying on such social media  
32 platform.

33 Sec. 2. Section 42-529 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
34 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2025*):

35 For the purposes of this section and sections 42-529a to 42-529e,  
36 inclusive, as amended by this act:

37 (1) "Adult" means any individual who is at least eighteen years of age;

38 (2) "Consent" has the same meaning as provided in section 42-515;

39 (3) "Consumer" has the same meaning as provided in section 42-515;

40 (4) "Controller" has the same meaning as provided in section 42-515;

41 (5) "Heightened risk of harm to minors" means processing minors'  
42 personal data in a manner that presents any reasonably foreseeable risk  
43 of (A) any unfair or deceptive treatment of, or any unlawful disparate  
44 impact on, minors, (B) any financial, physical or reputational injury to  
45 minors, [or] (C) any physical or other intrusion upon the solitude or  
46 seclusion, or the private affairs or concerns, of minors if such intrusion  
47 would be offensive to a reasonable person, or (D) any harm to the  
48 physical or mental health of minors;

49 (6) "HIPAA" has the same meaning as provided in section 42-515;

50 (7) "Minor" means any consumer who is younger than eighteen years  
51 of age;

52 (8) "Online service, product or feature" means any service, product or  
53 feature that is provided online. "Online service, product or feature" does  
54 not include any (A) telecommunications service, as defined in 47 USC  
55 153, as amended from time to time, (B) broadband Internet access  
56 service, as defined in 47 CFR 54.400, as amended from time to time, or  
57 (C) delivery or use of a physical product;

58 (9) "Person" has the same meaning as provided in section 42-515;

59 (10) "Personal data" has the same meaning as provided in section 42-  
60 515;

61 (11) "Precise geolocation data" has the same meaning as provided in  
62 section 42-515;

63 (12) "Process" and "processing" have the same meaning as provided  
64 in section 42-515;

65 (13) "Processor" has the same meaning as provided in section 42-515;

66 (14) "Profiling" has the same meaning as provided in section 42-515;

67 (15) "Protected health information" has the same meaning as  
68 provided in section 42-515;

69 (16) "Sale of personal data" has the same meaning as provided in  
70 section 42-515;

71 (17) "Targeted advertising" has the same meaning as provided in  
72 section 42-515; and

73 (18) "Third party" has the same meaning as provided in section 42-  
74 515.

75 Sec. 3. Subsections (b) and (c) of section 42-529a of the general statutes  
76 are repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
77 *October 1, 2025*):

78 (b) (1) Subject to the consent requirement established in subdivision  
79 (3) of this subsection, no controller that offers any online service,  
80 product or feature to consumers whom such controller has actual  
81 knowledge, or wilfully disregards, are minors shall [ (A) Process]  
82 process any minor's personal data; [(i) for] (A) For the purposes of [(I)]  
83 (i) targeted advertising, [(II)] (ii) any sale of personal data, or [(III)] (iii)  
84 profiling in furtherance of any fully automated decision made by such  
85 controller that produces any legal or similarly significant effect  
86 concerning the provision or denial by such controller of any financial or  
87 lending services, housing, insurance, education enrollment or  
88 opportunity, criminal justice, employment opportunity, health care  
89 services or access to essential goods or services; [, (ii)] (B) unless such  
90 processing is reasonably necessary to provide such online service,  
91 product or feature; [, (iii)] (C) for any processing purpose [(I)] (i) other  
92 than the processing purpose that the controller disclosed at the time  
93 such controller collected such personal data, or [(II)] (ii) that is  
94 reasonably necessary for, and compatible with, the processing purpose  
95 described in subparagraph [(A)(iii)(I)] (C)(i) of this subdivision; [, or  
96 [(iv)] (D) for longer than is reasonably necessary to provide such online  
97 service, product or feature. [, or (B) use any system design feature to  
98 significantly increase, sustain or extend any minor's use of such online  
99 service, product or feature.] The provisions of this subdivision shall not  
100 apply to any service or application that is used by and under the

101 direction of an educational entity, including, but not limited to, a  
102 learning management system or a student engagement program.

103 (2) Subject to the consent requirement established in subdivision (3)  
104 of this subsection, no controller that offers an online service, product or  
105 feature to consumers whom such controller has actual knowledge, or  
106 wilfully disregards, are minors shall collect a minor's precise  
107 geolocation data unless: (A) Such precise geolocation data is reasonably  
108 necessary for the controller to provide such online service, product or  
109 feature and, if such data is necessary to provide such online service,  
110 product or feature, such controller may only collect such data for the  
111 time necessary to provide such online service, product or feature; and  
112 (B) the controller provides to the minor a signal indicating that such  
113 controller is collecting such precise geolocation data, which signal shall  
114 be available to such minor for the entire duration of such collection.

115 (3) No controller shall engage in the activities described in  
116 subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection unless the controller obtains  
117 the minor's consent or, if the minor is younger than thirteen years of age,  
118 the consent of such minor's parent or legal guardian. A controller that  
119 complies with the verifiable parental consent requirements established  
120 in the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998, 15 USC 6501 et  
121 seq., and the regulations, rules, guidance and exemptions adopted  
122 pursuant to said act, as said act and such regulations, rules, guidance  
123 and exemptions may be amended from time to time, shall be deemed to  
124 have satisfied any requirement to obtain parental consent under this  
125 subdivision.

126 (c) (1) No controller that offers any online service, product or feature  
127 to consumers whom such controller has actual knowledge, or wilfully  
128 disregards, are minors shall: (A) Provide any consent mechanism that is  
129 designed to substantially subvert or impair, or is manipulated with the  
130 effect of substantially subverting or impairing, user autonomy, decision-  
131 making or choice; [or] (B) except as provided in subdivision (2) of this  
132 subsection, offer any direct messaging apparatus for use by minors

133 [without providing] unless (i) such controller provides readily  
134 accessible and easy-to-use safeguards to limit the ability of adults to  
135 send unsolicited communications to minors with whom they are not  
136 connected, and (ii) such online service, product or feature includes a  
137 default setting that prevents adults from sending unsolicited  
138 communications to minors with whom they are not connected; or (C)  
139 except as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection, use any system  
140 design feature to significantly increase, sustain or extend any minor's  
141 use of such online service, product or feature.

142 (2) The provisions of subparagraph (B) of subdivision (1) of this  
143 subsection shall not apply to services where the predominant or  
144 exclusive function is: (A) Electronic mail; or (B) direct messaging  
145 consisting of text, photos or videos that are sent between devices by  
146 electronic means, where messages are (i) shared between the sender and  
147 the recipient, (ii) only visible to the sender and the recipient, and (iii) not  
148 posted publicly.

149 (3) The provisions of subparagraph (C) of subdivision (1) of this  
150 subsection shall not apply to any service or application that is used by  
151 and under the direction of an educational entity, including, but not  
152 limited to, a learning management system or a student engagement  
153 program.

154 Sec. 4. Subsection (e) of section 42-529b of the general statutes is  
155 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October*  
156 *1, 2025*):

157 (e) If any controller conducts a data protection assessment pursuant  
158 to subsection (a) of this section and determines that the online service,  
159 product or feature that is the subject of such assessment poses a  
160 heightened risk of harm to minors, such controller shall establish and  
161 implement a plan to mitigate or eliminate such risk. The Attorney  
162 General may require a controller to disclose to the Attorney General a  
163 plan established and implemented pursuant to this subsection if the  
164 plan is relevant to an investigation conducted by the Attorney General.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	42-529
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	42-529a(b) and (c)
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2025</i>	42-529b(e)

***Statement of Purpose:***

To (1) require the owner of a social media platform to incorporate an online safety center into, and establish a cyberbullying policy for, the owner's social media platform, (2) redefine "heightened risk of harm to minors" to include processing minors' personal data in a manner that presents any reasonably foreseeable risk of harm to minors' physical or mental health, and (3) require the controller of an online service, product or feature that is offered to minors to (A) include a default setting in such service, product or feature to prevent adults from sending unsolicited communications to minors, (B) not use any system design feature to significantly increase, sustain or extend minors' use of such service, product or feature, and (C) disclose to the Attorney General a plan established and implemented to mitigate or eliminate any heightened risk of harm to minors.

*[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]*

Co-Sponsors: REP. KENNEDY, 119th Dist.; REP. MCGEE T., 116th Dist.  
REP. MARTINEZ, 22nd Dist.

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