



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6857

January Session, 2025



***AN ACT CONCERNING THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING SOCIAL MEDIA AND MINORS.***

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

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2026*) (a) As used in this section:
- 2 (1) "Covered minor" means any covered user who is younger than
3 eighteen years of age;
- 4 (2) "Covered operator" means any operator who operates or provides
5 a platform that recommends, selects or prioritizes media items in the
6 manner set forth in subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section;
- 7 (3) "Covered user" means any user of a platform in this state who is
8 not acting as the operator, or as an agent or affiliate of the operator, of
9 the platform;
- 10 (4) "Media item" means any text, image or video;
- 11 (5) "Operator" means any individual, corporation, limited liability
12 company, partnership, limited partnership, limited liability partnership,
13 association, joint stock company, unincorporated organization or other
14 legal entity that operates or provides a platform; and
- 15 (6) "Platform" means any Internet web site, online service, online

16 application or mobile application, including, but not limited to, any
17 social media platform, as defined in section 42-528 of the general
18 statutes, or any portion thereof.

19 (b) (1) No operator of a platform shall allow a covered user to access
20 any portion of the platform that, as a significant part of the services
21 offered by such portion of such platform, recommends, selects or
22 prioritizes for display, either concurrently or sequentially, media items
23 generated or shared by users of such platform if such recommendation,
24 selection or prioritization is based, in whole or in part, on any
25 information associated with the covered user or the covered user's
26 device, unless:

27 (A) (i) The operator has used commercially reasonable and
28 technically feasible methods to determine that the covered user is not a
29 covered minor; or

30 (ii) If the covered user is a covered minor, the operator has obtained
31 verifiable consent from the covered minor's parent or legal guardian to
32 recommend, select or prioritize media items for such covered minor in
33 the manner set forth in this subdivision;

34 (B) The recommendation, selection or prioritization (i) is based on
35 information that is not persistently associated with the covered user or
36 the covered user's device, and (ii) does not concern the covered user's
37 previous interactions with media items generated or shared by other
38 users of such platform;

39 (C) The recommendation, selection or prioritization is based on (i)
40 privacy or accessibility settings selected by the covered user, or (ii)
41 technical information concerning the covered user's device;

42 (D) The covered user has expressly and unambiguously requested
43 that any specific media item, media items from a specific author, creator
44 or poster to whom the covered user has subscribed or media items
45 shared by users to a specific page or group to which the covered user
46 has subscribed be displayed, blocked, prioritized or deprioritized;

47 (E) The recommended, selected or prioritized media item is a direct
48 and private communication;

49 (F) The media item is recommended, selected or prioritized
50 exclusively in response to a specific search inquiry made by the covered
51 user;

52 (G) The media item is recommended, selected or prioritized for
53 display exclusively because the media item (i) immediately follows any
54 other media item in a preexisting sequence, and (ii) is from the same
55 author, creator, poster or source; or

56 (H) The recommendation, selection or prioritization is necessary to
57 comply with any other provision of this section.

58 (2) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, a
59 covered operator that has used commercially reasonable and technically
60 feasible methods to determine a covered user's age and cannot
61 determine whether the covered user is a covered minor shall presume
62 that such covered user is not a covered minor for the purposes of this
63 subsection.

64 (B) A covered operator shall treat a covered user as a covered minor
65 if the covered operator obtains actual knowledge that the covered user
66 is a covered minor.

67 (3) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this subdivision:

68 (i) No information that is collected for the purpose of determining a
69 covered user's age under this subsection shall be used for any other
70 purpose, and such information shall be deleted immediately after an
71 attempt is made to determine the covered user's age; and

72 (ii) No information that is collected for the purpose of obtaining
73 verifiable consent from a covered minor's parent or legal guardian shall
74 be used for any other purpose, and such information shall be deleted
75 immediately after an attempt is made to obtain such verifiable consent.

76 (B) Any information that is collected for any purpose set forth in
77 subparagraph (A) of this subdivision may be used or retained if such
78 use or retention is necessary to comply with any federal law or
79 regulation or any other law or regulation of this state.

80 (4) No covered operator shall withhold or degrade, or reduce the
81 quality or increase the price of, any product, service or feature due to
82 the prohibition against recommending, selecting or prioritizing media
83 items in the manner set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection, unless
84 such withholding, degradation, reduction or increase is necessary for
85 such covered operator to comply with the provisions of this subsection.

86 (5) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit any
87 covered operator from taking any action to restrict access to, or the
88 availability of, any media item that such covered operator in good faith
89 considers to be obscene, lewd, lascivious, filthy, excessively violent,
90 harassing or otherwise objectionable, regardless of whether such media
91 item is protected under the Constitution of the state or the Constitution
92 of the United States.

93 (c) (1) No covered operator shall send any notification to a covered
94 minor concerning any recommendation, selection or prioritization
95 made in the manner set forth in subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this
96 section unless:

97 (A) Such notification is sent to the covered minor during the hours
98 between eight o'clock a.m. and nine o'clock p.m. eastern time; or

99 (B) The covered operator has obtained verifiable consent from the
100 covered minor's parent or legal guardian to send notifications to such
101 covered minor outside of the time frame set forth in subparagraph (A)
102 of this subdivision.

103 (2) Each covered operator shall:

104 (A) As a default setting for such covered operator's platform and
105 unless otherwise required by a covered minor's verified parent or legal

106 guardian pursuant to subparagraph (B) of this subdivision, (i) prevent
107 the covered minor from accessing or receiving any notification
108 described in subdivision (1) of this subsection outside of the time frame
109 set forth in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (1) of this subsection, (ii)
110 limit the covered minor's access to any portion of such covered
111 operator's platform that recommends, selects or prioritizes media items
112 in the manner set forth in subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section
113 to a maximum period of one hour per day, and (iii) set the covered
114 minor's platform account to a mode that exclusively allows users to
115 whom such covered minor is connected to view or respond to content
116 posted by such covered minor; and

117 (B) Establish and maintain a mechanism by which a covered minor's
118 verified parent or legal guardian may require such covered operator to
119 (i) prevent the covered minor from accessing or receiving any
120 notification described in subdivision (1) of this subsection outside of a
121 time frame specified by such parent or legal guardian, (ii) limit the
122 covered minor's access to any portion of such covered operator's
123 platform that recommends, selects or prioritizes media items in the
124 manner set forth in subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section to a
125 maximum daily period specified by such parent or legal guardian, or
126 (iii) set the covered minor's platform account to a mode that exclusively
127 allows users to whom such covered minor is connected to view or
128 respond to content posted by such covered minor.

129 (d) Not later than March 1, 2027, and annually thereafter, each
130 covered operator shall publicly disclose, in a form and manner specified
131 by the Attorney General, the following information for the preceding
132 calendar year:

133 (1) The total number of covered users who used the covered
134 operator's platform during such year;

135 (2) The portion of the total number of covered users described in
136 subdivision (1) of this subsection for whom the covered operator
137 obtained verifiable consent from a parent or legal guardian under

138 subparagraph (A)(ii) of subdivision (1) of subsection (b) of this section;

139 (3) The portion of the total number of covered users described in
 140 subdivision (1) of this subsection for whom the default settings set forth
 141 in subparagraph (A) of subdivision (2) of subsection (c) of this section
 142 were enabled, and the portion of such total number of covered users for
 143 whom such default settings were not enabled; and

144 (4) The average amount of time per day that covered users used the
 145 covered operator's platform, broken down by user age and hour of day.

146 (e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to (1) require a covered
 147 operator to provide a covered minor's parent or legal guardian with
 148 access to, or control over, such minor's platform account or any data
 149 associated therewith, unless provision of such access or control is
 150 specifically required by this section, or (2) impose liability for any
 151 commercial activity or action by an operator subject to 15 USC 6501, as
 152 amended from time to time, that is inconsistent with the manner in
 153 which such commercial activity or action is treated under 15 USC 6502,
 154 as amended from time to time.

155 (f) A violation of subsections (b) to (d), inclusive, of this section shall
 156 be deemed an unfair or deceptive trade practice under subsection (a) of
 157 section 42-110b of the general statutes.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2026	New section

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Subsec. (a)(3), "such platform" was changed to "the platform" for internal consistency; in Subsec. (b)(1)(D), "any media item" was changed to "any specific media item", "an author" was changed to "a specific author" and "a page" was changed to "a specific page" for clarity; in Subsec. (d)(2), "the operator" was changed to "the covered operator" for internal consistency; in Subsec. (d)(3), "which" was changed to "whom" for internal consistency; and in Subsec. (f), "this section" was changed to "subsections (b) to (d), inclusive, of this section" for accuracy.

GL *Joint Favorable Subst.*