

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Education Pre-K -12

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BILL: SB 52

INTRODUCER: Senator Burgess

SUBJECT: Required Instruction in Public Schools

DATE: February 6, 2023

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

	ANALYST	STAFF DIRECTOR	REFERENCE	ACTION
1.	Jahnke	Bouck	ED	<b>Pre-meeting</b>
2.			FP	

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## I. Summary:

SB 52 requires public schools to provide instruction on social media safety, and defines “social media” as a form of interactive electronic communication through an Internet website or application by which a user creates a service-specific identifying profile to connect with other users for the purpose of communicating and sharing information. Additionally, the bill requires the Department of Education to make social media safety instructional material available online and district school boards to notify parents of the material’s online availability.

The bill has no impact on state revenues or expenditures. The bill may have a fiscal impact on school districts. See section V.

This bill is effective July 1, 2023.

## II. Present Situation:

### Social Media Safety

Over the past decade, social media has become a dominant force in modern life. It has changed the way we communicate, share information, and interact with the world.<sup>1</sup> Most teens and many preteens use some form of social media and have a profile on a social networking site. Many visit these sites every day.<sup>2</sup> Teens credit social media for helping to build stronger friendships and exposing them to a more diverse world, but they express concern that these sites lead to drama and social pressure.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Loyola Medicine, Social Media Safety for Kids and Teens, <https://www.loyolamedicine.org/about-us/blog/social-media-safety-kids-teens>, (last visited Jan. 30, 2023).

<sup>2</sup> KidsHealth, *Teaching Kids to Be Smart About Social Media*, <https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/social-media-smarts.html>, (last visited Jan. 30, 2023).

<sup>3</sup> Pew Research Center, *Teens’ Social Media Habits and Experiences*, <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2018/11/28/teens-social-media-habits-and-experiences/>, (last visited Jan. 30, 2023).

### ***Advantages of Social Media***

There are numerous advantages when using social media. Some potential benefits of social media include:<sup>4</sup>

- Staying connected to friends.
- Meeting new friends with shared interests.
- Finding community and support for specific activities.
- Sharing artwork or music.
- Exploring and expressing themselves.

### ***Risks of Social Media***

Social media can be a hub for potentially dangerous or questionable activities. The risks to young people from social media vary widely. Social media gives predators an easy way to reach kids and teens.<sup>5</sup> Some potential safety risks of social media include:<sup>6</sup>

- Exposure to harmful or inappropriate content.
- Exposure to dangerous people.
- Cyberbullying.
- Oversharing personal information.
- Exposure to excessive advertisements.
- Privacy concerns including the collection of data about teen users.
- Identity theft or being hacked.
- Interference with sleep, exercise, homework, or family activities.

## **Instruction in Schools**

### ***Social Media Instruction in Schools***

Two-thirds of students are unable to tell the difference between news stories and ads, and 96 percent of students did not consider how ties between an advocacy website and industry might affect the site's credibility.<sup>7</sup>

Since 2015, at least 79 media literacy and digital citizenship bills have been introduced in at least 28 states. Of the bills introduced, at least 14 have been enacted in 10 states.<sup>8</sup>

Definitions of media literacy and digital citizenship vary. Some coalitions of stakeholders and education organizations have convened and created definitions for the terms.<sup>9</sup> One example of a

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<sup>4</sup> American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, *Social Media and Teens* (March 2018), [https://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Families\\_and\\_Youth/Facts\\_for\\_Families/FFF-Guide/Social-Media-and-Teens-100.aspx](https://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Families_and_Youth/Facts_for_Families/FFF-Guide/Social-Media-and-Teens-100.aspx), (last visited Jan. 3, 2023).

<sup>5</sup> Loyola Medicine, Social Media Safety for Kids and Teens, <https://www.loyolamedicine.org/about-us/blog/social-media-safety-kids-teens>, (last visited Jan. 30, 2023).

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*

<sup>7</sup> Stanford History Education Group, *Students' Civic Online Reasoning A National Portrait* (2019), available at <https://stacks.stanford.edu/file/druid:gf151tb4868/Civic%20Online%20Reasoning%20National%20Portrait.pdf>.

<sup>8</sup> Education Commission of the States, *Media Literacy & Digital Citizenship* (2021), available at [https://www.ecs.org/wp-content/uploads/Media\\_Literacy\\_and\\_Digital\\_Citizenship.pdf](https://www.ecs.org/wp-content/uploads/Media_Literacy_and_Digital_Citizenship.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> Education Commission of the States, *Media Literacy & Digital Citizenship* (2021), available at [https://www.ecs.org/wp-content/uploads/Media\\_Literacy\\_and\\_Digital\\_Citizenship.pdf](https://www.ecs.org/wp-content/uploads/Media_Literacy_and_Digital_Citizenship.pdf).

definition provided by a national coalition of education organizations defines five competencies of digital citizenship as inclusive, informed, engaged, balanced, and alert.<sup>10</sup>

When considered separately, media literacy typically addresses the ability to analyze, evaluate, access, and create media, while digital citizenship typically places more emphasis on online safety and responsibility.<sup>11</sup> Texas defines digital citizenship as including the ability to “access, analyze, evaluate, create, and act on all forms of digital communication” in addition to appropriate and responsible online behavior.<sup>12</sup>

### ***Social Media Instruction in Florida Schools***

Students are not required to receive instruction on social media. However, an instructional model for a social media course<sup>13</sup> is available in CPALMS.<sup>14</sup> The purpose of this social media course is to enable students to develop fundamental skills in the use of social media across print, multimedia, web, and broadcast platforms, including ethical and legal uses. The content of this course should include, but not be limited to, the following:<sup>15</sup>

- Demonstrating entry-level skills in digital communication and packaging them across the platforms/mediums of print, multimedia, online, and broadcast;
- Demonstrating fundamental skills in social media platforms and their uses; expressing social connections with maturity and complexity appropriate to writer, audience, purpose, and context;
- Using fundamental research skills and networking formats;
- Collaborating amongst peers; and
- Using effective listening, speaking, and viewing strategies with an emphasis on the use of evidence to support or refute a claim in multimedia presentations, class discussions, and extended text discussions.

### ***Required Instruction in Florida Schools***

The mission of Florida’s K-20 education system is to allow its students to increase their proficiency by allowing them the opportunity to expand their knowledge and skills through rigorous and relevant learning opportunities.<sup>16</sup> Each district school board must provide appropriate instruction to ensure that students meet State Board of Education (SBE) adopted standards in the following subject areas: reading and other language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, foreign languages, health and physical education, and the arts.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> DigCitCommit, *Explore the DigCitCommit Competencies*, <https://digcitcommit.org/>, (last visited Jan. 27, 2023).

<sup>11</sup> Education Commission of the States, *Media Literacy & Digital Citizenship* (2021), available at [https://www.ecs.org/wp-content/uploads/Media\\_Literacy\\_and\\_Digital\\_Citizenship.pdf](https://www.ecs.org/wp-content/uploads/Media_Literacy_and_Digital_Citizenship.pdf).

<sup>12</sup> *Id.*

<sup>13</sup> CPALMS, Course, *Social Media 1 (#1006375)*, <https://www.cpalms.org/PreviewCourse/Preview/17758>, (last visited Jan. 3, 2023).

<sup>14</sup> CPALMS is the State of Florida’s official source for standards information and course descriptions. It provides access to thousands of standards-aligned, free, and high-quality instructional/educational resources that have been developed specifically for the standards and vetted through a rigorous review process. CPALMS, *About CPALMS*, [http://www.cpalms.org/CPALMS/about\\_us.aspx](http://www.cpalms.org/CPALMS/about_us.aspx), (last visited Jan. 3, 2023).

<sup>15</sup> *Id.*

<sup>16</sup> Section 1000.03(4), F.S.

<sup>17</sup> Section 1003.42(1), F.S.

Instructional staff of public schools,<sup>18</sup> subject to the rules of the SBE and the district school board, must provide instruction in:<sup>19</sup>

- The history and content of the Declaration of Independence.
- The history, meaning, significance, and effect of the provisions of the Constitution of the United States.
- The arguments in support of adopting our republican form of government.
- Flag education, including proper flag display and flag salute.
- The elements of civil government.
- The history of the United States.
- The history of the Holocaust.
- The history of African Americans.
- The elementary principles of agriculture.
- The effects of alcoholic and intoxicating liquors and beverages and narcotics.
- Kindness to animals.
- The history of the state.
- The conservation of natural resources.
- Comprehensive age-appropriate and developmentally appropriate K-12 instruction on health education and life skills.
- The study of Hispanic contributions to the United States.
- The study of women’s contributions to the United States.
- The nature and importance of free enterprise to the United States economy.
- Civic and character education.
- The sacrifices that veterans and Medal of Honor recipients have made serving the country.

### **III. Effect of Proposed Changes:**

The bill amends s. 1003.42, F.S., to require instructional staff of public schools to provide instruction on social media safety.

The bill defines “social media” as a form of interactive electronic communication through an Internet website or application by which a user creates a service-specific identifying profile to connect with other users of the Internet website or application for the purpose of communicating and sharing information, ideas, news, stories, opinions, images, and other content.

Requiring instruction on social media safety could provide students with a better understanding of the benefits and risks of communicating and sharing information on social media platforms.

Additionally, the bill requires the Department of Education to make social media safety instructional material available online and district school boards to notify parents of the material’s online availability.

This bill is effective July 1, 2023.

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<sup>18</sup> Instructional staff of charter schools are generally exempt from this section of law. Section 1002.33(16), F.S.

<sup>19</sup> Section 1003.42(2), F.S.

**IV. Constitutional Issues:**

## A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

## B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

## C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

## D. State Tax or Fee Increases:

None.

## E. Other Constitutional Issues:

None.

**V. Fiscal Impact Statement:**

## A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

## B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

## C. Government Sector Impact:

For those school districts that do not already provide social media safety instruction, there may be a cost associated with including this instruction in the required curriculum.

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

This bill substantially amends section 1003.42 of the Florida Statutes.

**IX. Additional Information:**

**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

**B. Amendments:**

None.

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This Senate Bill Analysis does not reflect the intent or official position of the bill's introducer or the Florida Senate.

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