

By Senator Garcia

36-00574-24

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1                   A bill to be entitled  
2       An act relating to the protection of minors on social  
3       media platforms; creating s. 501.174, F.S.; defining  
4       the terms "account holder" and "social media  
5       platform"; requiring social media platforms to develop  
6       and implement a content moderation strategy to prevent  
7       a minor from being exposed to certain materials on the  
8       social media platform; providing requirements for the  
9       moderation strategy; requiring social media platforms  
10      to verify the ages of users creating accounts on the  
11      platforms; requiring certain features and content to  
12      be restricted from minors; requiring social media  
13      platforms to provide parents or legal guardians with  
14      parental control settings that place controls on a  
15      minor child's account; requiring algorithms and a  
16      real-time monitoring system that meet certain  
17      requirements; requiring social media platforms to  
18      report certain activity to the appropriate local  
19      authorities or child protection agencies; requiring  
20      social media platforms to collaborate with certain  
21      entities and experts to ensure compliance with privacy  
22      laws and regulations; requiring safety alerts and  
23      notifications to account holders; requiring regular  
24      audits and assessments of the monitoring and reporting  
25      measures; providing penalties under the Florida  
26      Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act; providing an  
27      effective date.

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29   Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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Section 1. Section 501.174, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

501.174 Social media platform content moderation; penalty.-

(1) DEFINITIONS.-As used in this section, the term:

(a) "Account holder" means a resident of this state who has or opens an account or creates a profile in order to use or access a social media platform.

(b) "Social media platform" has the same meaning as in s. 112.23.

(2) DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS.-A social media platform shall develop and implement a content moderation strategy to prevent an account holder who is a minor from being exposed to content that promotes, glorifies, or facilitates grooming, solicitation, child pornography, or other sexual exploitation or abuse.

(a) The content moderation strategy developed must include, at a minimum, all of the following:

1. The use of natural language processing techniques that analyze text content for patterns associated with grooming, solicitation, or sexually explicit language involving minors.

2. The use of computer vision techniques that analyze images shared on social media platforms to identify sexually explicit or inappropriate images involving minors.

(b) The data and information collected pursuant to this subsection must be compiled in a standardized format for analysis.

(3) AGE VERIFICATION AND AGE-RESTRICTED CONTENT.-A social media platform shall:

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59 (a) Verify the age of users who attempt to create an  
60 account with the social media platform.

61 (b) Identify features and content that are inappropriate  
62 for an account holder who is a minor to access and that use geo-  
63 fencing to restrict the minor's access to such content or  
64 features.

65 (4) PARENTAL CONTROLS.—A social media platform shall  
66 provide parental control settings that include geo-fencing  
67 features, allowing parents or legal guardians to set boundaries  
68 on their minor child's social media usage based on location and  
69 time restrictions.

70 (5) REAL-TIME MONITORING AND REPORTING.—A social media  
71 platform shall:

72 (a) Develop and use:

73 1. Algorithms that detect suspicious patterns and flag  
74 potentially inappropriate activity, including adult interactions  
75 with minors, private messaging frequency, and attempts to  
76 establish inappropriate relationships with minors.

77 2. A real-time monitoring system that continuously analyzes  
78 social media content and identifies potentially inappropriate  
79 activity involving minors, including an automated reporting  
80 mechanism that promptly reports identified instances to the  
81 appropriate authorities.

82 (b) Prioritize and handle reports of inappropriate activity  
83 involving minors by directing reports to the appropriate local  
84 authorities or child protection agencies based on the user's  
85 location.

86 (c) Collaborate with law enforcement agencies, child  
87 protection agencies, and legal experts to ensure compliance with

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88 privacy laws and regulations.

89 (d) Send safety alerts and notifications to an account  
90 holder in a specific geographic area that has an increased risk  
91 of child exploitation or grooming.

92 (e) Conduct regular audits and assessments to evaluate the  
93 effectiveness of the implemented monitoring and reporting  
94 measures and make necessary improvements.

95 (6) PENALTY.—A social media platform that fails to comply  
96 with this section commits a deceptive and unfair trade practice  
97 under part II of this chapter and is subject to the penalties  
98 and remedies provided in that part.

99 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.