

# HB235 INTRODUCED



1 HB235  
2 PWDSEEG-1  
3 By Representatives Faulkner, DuBose, Hulsey, Collins  
4 RFD: Children and Senior Advocacy  
5 First Read: 06-Feb-25



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SYNOPSIS:

This bill would require social media platforms to prevent individuals under 16 years of age from creating accounts.

This bill would require social media platforms to use a commercially reasonable age verification process.

This bill would also provide that a knowing or reckless violation of this act by a social media platform is a deceptive trade practice and would provide for civil penalties.

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to social media; to require social media platforms to verify the age of new users and to prohibit individuals under 16 years of age from creating a new account; to designate the Attorney General as the enforcing authority of the act; and to provide penalties for violations.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. For the purposes of this act, the following terms have the following meanings:



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29 (1) ACCOUNT HOLDER. A resident who opens, creates, or  
30 operates a profile on a social media platform or is identified  
31 by a social media platform by a unique identifier while using  
32 or accessing a social media platform when the social media  
33 platform knows or has reason to believe that the resident is  
34 located in this state.

35 (2) RESIDENT. An individual who resides in this state  
36 for at least six months out of every year.

37 (3) SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM. An online forum, website, or  
38 application that satisfies both of the following criteria:

39 a. Allows users to upload content or view the content  
40 or activity of other users.

41 b. Employs algorithms that analyze user data or  
42 information on users to select content for users.

43 Section 2. Beginning January 1, 2026, a social media  
44 platform shall prohibit and prevent any individual under 16  
45 years of age from becoming an account holder.

46 Section 3. Beginning January 1, 2026, a social media  
47 platform shall use a commercially reasonable process to verify  
48 the age of any individual attempting to create an account.

49 Section 4. (a) Any knowing or reckless violation of  
50 this act is deemed a deceptive trade practice actionable under  
51 Chapter 19 of Title 8 of the Code of Alabama 1975. If the  
52 Attorney General has reason to believe that a social media  
53 platform is in violation of this act, the Attorney General, as  
54 the enforcing authority, may bring an action against the  
55 social media platform for an unfair or deceptive trade  
56 practice. In addition to other remedies available under



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57 Chapter 19 of Title 8 of the Code of Alabama 1975, the  
58 Attorney General may collect a civil penalty of up to fifty  
59 thousand dollars (\$50,000) per violation, reasonable attorney  
60 fees, and court costs.

61 (b) If a violation described in subsection (a) is part  
62 of a consistent pattern of knowing or reckless conduct, the  
63 Attorney General may seek punitive damages against the social  
64 media platform.

65 Section 5. This act shall become effective on January  
66 1, 2026.