

# HB276 INTRODUCED



1 HB276  
2 ZAL9KRW-1  
3 By Representative Robbins  
4 RFD: Children and Senior Advocacy  
5 First Read: 13-Feb-25



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SYNOPSIS:

This bill would require social media platforms to display notifications when minor account holders under 18 years of age use the platform in certain circumstances.

This bill would require social media platforms to prohibit certain actions regarding accounts owned by minors under 18 years of age.

This bill would require social media platforms to respond in a timely manner to inquiries from the Attorney General.

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

This bill would require social media platforms to provide tools and settings for parents, guardians, and minors to support minors with accounts on the platform.

This bill would require social media platforms to remove certain content in certain circumstances.

This bill would require social media platforms to cooperate with law enforcement agencies.

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



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29 civil penalties.

30 This bill would also require the State  
31 Department of Education to develop guidelines and a  
32 resource bank related to the mental and physical health  
33 impacts of social media use by minors.

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A BILL

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TO BE ENTITLED

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AN ACT

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40 Relating to social media; to require social media  
41 platforms to terminate certain accounts; to require social  
42 media platforms to display notifications in certain  
43 circumstances; to require social media platforms to prohibit  
44 certain actions; to require social media platforms to respond  
45 to inquiries from the Attorney General; to require social  
46 media platforms to use an age verification process; to require  
47 social media platforms to provide certain account tools and  
48 settings; to require social media platforms to remove certain  
49 content; to require social media platforms to cooperate with  
50 law enforcement; and to require the State Department of  
51 Education to take certain actions related to the mental and  
52 physical health impacts of social media use by minors.

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

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(1) ACCOUNT HOLDER. A resident who opens, creates, or



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57 operates a profile on a social media platform or is identified  
58 by a social media platform by a unique identifier while using  
59 or accessing a social media platform when the social media  
60 platform knows or has reason to believe that the resident is  
61 located in this state.

62 (2) DAILY ACTIVE USERS. The number of unique users in  
63 the United States who used a social media platform on at least  
64 80 percent of the previous 365 days or, if the social media  
65 platform has not existed for 365 days, the number of unique  
66 users in the United States who used the social media platform  
67 on at least 80 percent of the last 30 days.

68 (3) ENGAGEMENT FEATURE. Any of the following:

69 a. Infinite scrolling.

70 b. Push notifications or alerts sent by a social media  
71 platform to inform a user about specific activities or events  
72 related to the user's account.

73 c. Display of personal interactive metrics that  
74 indicate the number of times other users have clicked a button  
75 to indicate their reaction to content or have shared or  
76 reposted the user's content.

77 d. Video that begins to play without the user first  
78 clicking on the video or on a play button for the video.

79 (4) EPHEMERAL CONTENT. Content that is temporarily made  
80 available to users of a social media platform and that  
81 includes features, notifications, or visual design cues  
82 indicating the content will soon disappear.

83 (5) INFINITE SCROLLING. Either of the following:

84 a. Content that loads as the user scrolls down the page



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85 without the need to open a separate page.

86 b. The use of pages with no visible or apparent end or  
87 page breaks.

88 (6) OBSCENE MATTER. Any visual medium depicting acts of  
89 sexually explicit conduct, as defined in Section 13A-12-190,  
90 Code of Alabama 1975.

91 (7) RESIDENT. An individual who resides in this state  
92 for at least six months out of every year.

93 (8) SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM or PLATFORM. An online forum,  
94 website, or application that satisfies each of the following  
95 criteria:

96 a. Allows users to upload content or view the content  
97 or activity of other users.

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

100 c. Employs any engagement features.

101 d. Of the platform's daily active users under 16 years  
102 of age, at least 10 percent average more than two hours per  
103 day using the website over the last 365 days, or over the last  
104 30 days if the platform has not existed for 365 days.

105 Section 2. A social media platform shall do all of the  
106 following:

107 (1) Allow any account holder to request to terminate an  
108 account. The termination must be effective within five  
109 business days after the request.

110 (2) Allow the confirmed parent or guardian of an  
111 account holder under 16 years of age to request the  
112 termination of the account holder's account. The termination



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113 must be effective within 45 business days after the request.

114 (3) Permanently delete all personal information held by  
115 the social media platform relating to any account terminated  
116 pursuant to this section, unless otherwise required by law.

117 Section 3. On or after January 1, 2027, a social media  
118 platform, by default, shall display a pop-up or full screen  
119 notification to an account holder who is under 18 years of age  
120 when the account holder does either of the following:

121 (1) Has spent one cumulative hour on the social media  
122 platform during a 24-hour period.

123 (2) Uses the social media platform between the hours of  
124 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.

125 Section 4. A social media platform shall prohibit an  
126 account owned by an individual under 18 years of age from all  
127 of the following:

128 (1) Receiving direct messages from any account holder  
129 18 years of age or older unless the minor account holder is  
130 already connected to the adult account holder on the platform.

131 (2) Collecting or using personal information from the  
132 posts, content, messages, texts, or usage activities of the  
133 account other than information beyond what is adequate,  
134 relevant, and reasonably necessary in relation to the purposes  
135 for which such information is collected, as disclosed.

136 (3) Displaying any advertising in the account based on  
137 the account holder's personal information, except age or  
138 location.

139 Section 5. (a) A social media platform shall respond in  
140 a timely manner and in a usable format to inquiries from the



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141 Attorney General regarding all of the following:

142 (1) The current version of the published policies of  
143 the platform.

144 (2) Any changes to the published policies since the  
145 previous report.

146 (3) Whether the current version of the published  
147 policies contains a definition or provision relating to any of  
148 the following categories of content and, if so, the respective  
149 definitions or descriptions:

150 a. Illicit substances.

151 b. Sex trafficking.

152 c. Possession, display, exchange, distribution, sale,  
153 or creation of, or the inducement to create, obscene matter.

154 (4) Content moderation practices used by the platform  
155 including, but not limited to, all of the following:

156 a. Content practices intended to address any of the  
157 categories of content listed in subdivision (3).

158 b. How the platform responds to user reports of content  
159 that violates its published policies.

160 c. How the platform removes individual pieces of  
161 content, users, or groups that violate the published policies  
162 or takes other action against a user or group of users that  
163 violates the published policies.

164 d. The languages in which the platform makes published  
165 policies available.

166 (5) A description of the platform's age verification  
167 practices, including the types of data used for age  
168 verification.



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169 (6) Data including all of the following:

170 a. The number of times in the preceding calendar year  
171 that the platform responded to requests using the legal  
172 process from law enforcement agencies in this state pursuant  
173 to a violation of state or federal law, and the nature of any  
174 violation.

175 b. The number of times that law enforcement agencies in  
176 this state requested information, as well as the number of  
177 requests that went unanswered and the reason why the requests  
178 went unanswered.

179 (b) The Attorney General shall make public all  
180 information collected pursuant to this section.

181 (c) Nothing in this section shall compel a platform to  
182 publicly report information in violation of trade secret  
183 protections or where doing so could damage the integrity or  
184 security of the platform.

185 Section 6. (a) A social media platform shall use a  
186 commercially reasonable process to verify the age of each user  
187 of the platform.

188 (b) A platform shall allow each user to select an  
189 option to apply to the protections described in Sections 7 and  
190 8.

191 (c) With regard to any information concerning a user  
192 obtained by a platform or its agent in order to comply with  
193 the requirements of this section, a platform or its agent  
194 shall do both of the following:

195 (1) Retain the information only for the purpose of  
196 compliance with this section.





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197 (2) Securely dispose of the information after age  
198 verification is complete.

199 (d) Any agent of a platform that processes age  
200 verification information as required by this section shall  
201 have its principal place of business in the United States.

202 Section 7. (a) A social media platform shall provide  
203 readily accessible and easy-to-use tools and settings for  
204 parents and guardians to support a minor account holder with  
205 respect to the minor's use of the platform. The tools and  
206 settings shall include the ability to do all of the following:

207 (1) View and manage privacy and account settings.

208 (2) Restrict purchases and financial transactions.

209 (3) View metrics of total time spent on the platform.

210 (4) Restrict time spent on the platform, including both  
211 maximum daily usage limits and limits during certain hours.

212 (5) Limit and opt out of all of the following:

213 a. Infinite scrolling features, while still allowing  
214 display of content in a chronological format.

215 b. Notification and alert features.

216 c. Reward features of any kind, including rewards a  
217 platform gives to users for time spent on the platform.

218 d. Appearance-altering filters.

219 e. Automatic playing of media.

220 f. Geolocation features.

221 (6) Limit types or categories of recommendations from  
222 personal recommendation systems and ephemeral content feeds.

223 (7) View information regarding interactions between the  
224 minor's account and other accounts, including a list of



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225 connected accounts and a list of accounts with which the minor  
226 account has exchanged private messages.

227 (8) Easily report predatory activity and obscene matter  
228 to the platform.

229 (9) Delete the minor's account and any personal data  
230 collected from or shared by the minor on the platform.

231 (b) A social media platform shall provide clear and  
232 conspicuous notice to a user that the platform knows or  
233 reasonably should know is a minor when tools described in this  
234 section are in effect and what settings or controls have been  
235 applied.

236 Section 8. (a) A social media platform shall provide an  
237 individual whom the platform knows or reasonably should know  
238 is a minor with readily accessible and easy-to-use safeguards  
239 that include the ability to do all of the following:

240 (1) Limit the amount of time the minor spends on the  
241 platform.

242 (2) Limit the ability of other individuals to  
243 communicate with the minor.

244 (3) Prevent other users from viewing the minor's  
245 personal data collected by or shared on the platform.

246 (4) Limit and opt out of all of the following:

247 a. Private messaging and private content features.

248 b. Notification and alert features.

249 c. Reward features of any kind, including rewards a  
250 platform gives to users for time spent on the platform.

251 d. Appearance-altering features.

252 e. Automatic playing of media.



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253 f. Geolocation features.

254 (5) Limit types or categories of recommendations from  
255 personal recommendation systems and ephemeral content feeds.

256 (6) Restrict the sharing of the geolocation of the  
257 minor to other users on the platform and provide notice of the  
258 tracking of the minor's geolocation.

259 (7) Delete the minor's account and any personal data  
260 collected from or shared by the minor on the platform.

261 (b) A social media platform shall ensure that, in the  
262 case of a user the platform knows or reasonably should know is  
263 a minor, the default setting for any safeguard described in  
264 this section is the option that provides the most protective  
265 level of control over privacy and safety for that user.

266 (c) A social media platform shall provide an individual  
267 whom the platform knows or reasonably should know is a minor  
268 with clear and conspicuous warnings when any of the following  
269 occur:

270 (1) Content shared by the minor on the platform may  
271 contain geolocation information.

272 (2) The minor's data may be tracked or used for the  
273 purpose of algorithmic profiling, recommending content, or  
274 targeting advertising.

275 (3) The minor's data may be sold to the platform's  
276 advertising clients.

277 (4) The minor's account profile is recommended or  
278 displayed to adult users.

279 (5) The minor's account profile is recommended or  
280 displayed to users who are not on the minor's populated list



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281 of connected users on the platform.

282 (6) The minor shares or receives private content from  
283 users who are not on the minor's populated list of connected  
284 users on the platform.

285 Section 9. A social media platform shall take action  
286 against any user determined to have engaged in any violation  
287 of the platform's published policies as detected by any  
288 component of the platform's content moderation systems.

289 Section 10. Prior to initiating any enforcement action  
290 pursuant to this act, the Attorney General shall issue a  
291 notice of violation to a social media platform alleged to have  
292 violated this act. If the platform fails to cure the violation  
293 within 60 days after receipt of the notice, an action may be  
294 brought.

295 Section 11. (a) Any knowing or reckless violation of  
296 this act is deemed a deceptive trade practice actionable under  
297 Chapter 19 of Title 8 of the Code of Alabama 1975. If the  
298 Attorney General has reason to believe that a social media  
299 platform is in violation of this act, the Attorney General, as  
300 the enforcing authority, may bring an action against the  
301 social media platform for an unfair or deceptive trade  
302 practice. In addition to other remedies available under  
303 Chapter 19 of Title 8 of the Code of Alabama of 1975, the  
304 Attorney General may collect a civil penalty of up to fifty  
305 thousand dollars (\$50,000) per violation, reasonable attorney  
306 fees, and court costs.

307 (b) If a violation described in subsection (a) is part  
308 of a consistent pattern of knowing or reckless conduct, the



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309 Attorney General may seek punitive damages against the social  
310 media platform.

311 Section 12. (a) The State Department of Education may  
312 develop recommended guidelines for the implementation of  
313 curriculum related to the mental and physical health impacts  
314 of social media use by minors.

315 (b) (1) The State Department of Education shall convene  
316 a stakeholder group to identify scholarly articles, programs,  
317 and resources pertaining to the mental and physical health  
318 impacts of social media use by minors that are evidence-based,  
319 culturally sensitive, and reflective of positive youth  
320 development guidelines for inclusion in a resource bank.

321 (2) The State Department of Education shall maintain  
322 the resource bank and update the resource bank on an annual  
323 basis.

324 Section 13. The Attorney General shall adopt rules to  
325 implement this act.

326 Section 14. An Internet service provider or its  
327 affiliates or subsidiaries, a search engine, or a cloud  
328 service provider does not violate this act solely by providing  
329 access or connections to or from a website or other  
330 information or content on the Internet or a facility, system,  
331 or network not under the provider's control, including  
332 transmission, downloading, intermediate storage, or access  
333 software, to the extent the provider is not responsible for  
334 the creation of the content of the communication which  
335 violates this act.

336 Section 15. This act shall become effective on January



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337 1, 2027.