



HOUSE BILL 301: Social Media Protections for Minors Under 16.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	House Judiciary 2. If favorable, re-refer to Commerce and Economic Development. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	April 1, 2025
Introduced by:	Reps. Zenger, N. Jackson, Almond, Willis	Prepared by:	Susan Sitze Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition H301-CSSA-11		

OVERVIEW: *The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) for House Bill 301 would make provide social media protections for minors under 16 as follows:*

- *Prohibit social medial platforms from allowing minors under the age of 14 to create an account.*
- *Prohibit social media platforms from allowing 14- and 15-year-olds to create an account without parental consent.*
- *Require social media platforms to use age verification to verify the age of account holders.*
- *Authorize the Department of Justice to bring an action for unfair and deceptive trade practices against a social medial platform that violates these provisions and collect a civil penalty of up to \$50,000 per violation.*
- *Authorize a civil action on behalf of a minor account holder and an award of up to \$10,000 in damages.*

CURRENT LAW: Article 51 of Chapter 66 of the General Statutes requires commercial entities that publish or distribute material harmful to minors on the internet from a website that contains a substantial portion of such material to verify the age of any person accessing the website.

BILL ANALYSIS:

The PCS for House Bill 301 would require social media platforms to prohibit minors under 14 years old from having an account on the platform, and prohibit 14- and 15-year-olds from having an account without parental consent.

The platform would be required to terminate the account of any minor that violates these prohibitions after allowing 30 days to dispute the termination.

The Department of Justice would be authorized to bring an action under Chapter 75 of the General Statutes for unfair and deceptive trade practices for any violation of these requirements as well as collect a civil penalty of \$50,000 per violation. When the platform's failure to comply is a consistent pattern of knowing or reckless conduct, punitive damages may be assessed against the platform.

A civil action may be brought on behalf of a minor account holder against a platform that knowingly or recklessly violates these provisions. Claimants may be awarded up to \$10,000 in damages and the action

Kara McCraw
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578

House 301 PCS

Page 2

must be brought within one year from the date the complainant knew or reasonably should have known of the violation.

Additionally, platforms would also have to conduct age verification for new accounts using either anonymous age verification or standard age verification, with the method being chosen by the person creating the account. Violation of this requirement would also authorize the Department to bring an action under Chapter 75 of the General Statutes for unfair and deceptive trade practices as well as collect a civil penalty of \$50,000 per violation, and the assessment of punitive damages if the failure to comply is a consistent pattern of knowing or reckless conduct.

EFFECTIVE DATE: This act would become effective October 1, 2025.