Senate Bill 351

By: Senators Anavitarte of the 31st, Robertson of the 29th, Brass of the 28th, Kennedy of the 18th, Gooch of the 51st and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

1 To amend Titles 20 and 39 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education 2 and minors, respectively, so as to provide for social media platform access by minors; to 3 provide for social media policies in public schools; to include promotion of safe and 4 appropriate use of technology and responsible digital citizenship in the state's comprehensive 5 character education program; to require the Department of Education to develop and periodically update model programs for educating students regarding online safety; to 6 provide for required and optional instruction regarding social media for such programs; to 7 8 require local boards of education to adopt, implement, and enforce social media policies; to authorize the Attorney General and the Department of Education to consult with and assist 9 10 local boards of education in the development and implementation of such policies; to require 11 local boards of education to submit such policies to the State Board of Education for review; 12 to authorize the State Board of Education to withhold state funds from a local board of education for failure to comply with certain social media policy requirements; to provide for 13 14 appeals; to provide for venue; to revise provisions relating to the prohibition of bullying and 15 cyberbullying in public schools; to require social media platforms to verify the age of account holders and to refuse account services to minors without parental consent; to require 16 17 social medial platforms to provide certain information to parents upon request; to provide for 18 enforcement authority of the Attorney General; to prohibit certain waivers; to provide for

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19 definitions; to provide for effective dates; to provide for a short title; to provide for related20 matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:
22 PART I
23 SECTION 1-1.

24 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Protecting Georgia's Children on Social25 Media Act of 2024."

 26
 PART II

 27
 SECTION 2-1.

28 Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and 29 secondary education, is amended in Part 2 of Article 6, relating to competencies and core 30 curriculum under the "Quality Basic Education Act," by revising Code Section 20-2-145, 31 relating to the comprehensive character education program, as follows:

32 "20-2-145.

33 (a) The State Board of Education shall develop by the start of the 1997-1998 school year 34 a comprehensive character education program for levels K-12. This comprehensive 35 character education program shall be known as the 'character curriculum' and shall focus 36 on the students' development of the following character traits: courage, patriotism, 37 citizenship, honesty, fairness, respect for others, kindness, cooperation, self-respect, 38 self-control, courtesy, compassion, tolerance, diligence, generosity, punctuality, 39 cleanliness, cheerfulness, school pride, respect for the environment, respect for the creator, 40 patience, creativity, sportsmanship, loyalty, perseverance, and virtue. Such program shall

also address, by the start of the 1999-2000 2024-2025 school year, methods of discouraging
bullying and violent acts against fellow students <u>and methods of promoting responsible</u>
digital citizenship and the safe and appropriate use of technology, the internet, and social
<u>media</u>. Local boards shall implement such a program in all grade levels at the beginning
of the 2000-2001 2025-2026 school year and shall provide opportunities for parental
involvement in establishing expected outcomes of the character education program.

47 (b) The Department of Education shall develop character education program workshops

48 designed for employees of local school systems."

49

SECTION 2-2.

50 Said chapter is further amended in said part by revising Code Section 20-2-149, relating to 51 program for educating students regarding online internet safety, as follows:

52 "20-2-149.

(a)(1) The Department of Education shall develop a model program model programs for
educating students regarding online safety while using the Internet internet, taking into
consideration educational materials on this topic developed by other states as well as any
other materials suggested by education experts, child psychologists, and technology
companies that promote child online safety issues.

58 (2) The model programs provided for in this subsection shall include one or more model

- 59 programs for students in grades six through 12 which:
- 60 (A) Shall include instruction regarding:
- 61 (i) The social, emotional, and physical effects of social media on users;
- 62 (ii) The negative effects of social media on the mental health of users, including, but
- 63 <u>not limited to, addiction;</u>
- 64 (iii) The distribution of disinformation and misinformation on social media;
- 65 (iv) How social media manipulates or influences thoughts and behaviors;
- 66 (v) The permanency and risks of sharing materials online;

67	(vi) How to maintain personal security and identify cyberbullying, predatory
68	behavior, and human trafficking on the internet and social media; and
69	(vii) How to report suspicious behavior encountered on the internet and social media
70	to appropriate persons and authorities; and
71	(B) May include information regarding the benefits of social media use, such as
72	supporting career readiness for future academic or employment opportunities, sharing
73	information with familiar family and friends, and safely connecting with other users
74	with similar interests.
75	(3) The Department of Education shall periodically update the model programs provided
76	for in this subsection to reflect changes in internet and social media use, emergent
77	technologies, social and psychological research, and information concerning new threats
78	to teenagers and young adults using social media platforms and other online
79	communication technologies.
80	(4) The Department of Education shall publish on its website information relating to the
81	model programs provided for in this Code section, including recommended curricula and
82	instructional materials.
83	(b) Each local board of education may incorporate into its instructional program a
84	component on online Internet internet safety, including social media safety, to be taught
85	on a schedule as determined by the local board of education."

86

SECTION 2-3.

87 Said chapter is further amended in Part 15 of Article 6, relating to miscellaneous provisions

88 under the "Quality Basic Education Act," by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

89 ″<u>20-2-324.7.</u>

90 (a) As used in this Code section, the term:

- 91 (1) 'Internet' means the global information system that is logically linked together by a
- 92 globally unique address space based on the internet protocol or its subsequent extensions;

93	that is able to support communications using the transmission control protocol/internet
94	protocol (TCP/IP) suite, its subsequent extensions, or other compatible protocols; and that
95	provides, uses, or makes accessible, either publicly or privately, high-level services
96	layered on such communications and related infrastructure.
97	(2) 'Local board of education' means the board of education of a local school system or
98	any other governing body recognized by the laws of this state as being responsible for the
99	management and control of a public school.
100	(3) 'Social media platform' has the same meaning as defined in Code Section 39-6-1.
101	(b) No later than August 1, 2024, each local board of education shall adopt a social media
102	policy which shall:
103	(1) Prohibit and prevent students from accessing social media platforms through the use
104	of computer equipment, communications services, or internet access that is operated,
105	owned, leased, or otherwise provided by the local board of education, local school
106	system, or public school, except when expressly authorized by a school administrator or
107	teacher solely for appropriate educational purposes;
108	(2) Establish appropriate measures to be taken when a student or school personnel
109	violates such policy; and
110	(3) Provide for expedited review and resolution of a claim that such policy is denying a
111	student or school personnel access to information, materials, or platforms that are
112	currently inaccessible due to prohibitions included in the social media policy.
113	(c) A local board of education shall take such steps as it deems appropriate to implement
114	and enforce its social media policy, which shall include, but shall not be limited to:
115	(1) Use of software programs and other technologies reasonably designed and intended
116	to block access to social media platforms; and
117	(2) Selection of online servers that block access to social media platforms.
118	(d) Each local school system or public school shall publish on its website a copy of the
119	social media policy adopted pursuant to subsection (b) of this Code section and shall

120	provide a paper copy of such upon written request of a parent or guardian of an enrolled
121	student.
122	(e) The Attorney General and the Department of Education shall be authorized to consult
123	with and assist any local board of education in developing and implementing a social media
124	policy pursuant to this Code section.
125	(f)(1) No later than October 1, 2024, each local board of education shall submit a copy
126	of the social media policy adopted pursuant to subsection (b) of this Code section to the
127	State Board of Education for compliance review. Such submission shall identify any
128	software program or other technology that is being or will be utilized to block access to
129	social media platforms in accordance with subsection (c) of this Code section.
130	(2) The State Board of Education shall review each social media policy and any
131	subsequent revisions submitted pursuant to paragraph (3) of this subsection. If the State
132	Board of Education determines after compliance review that a policy or revision thereof
133	is not reasonably designed to achieve the requirements of this Code section, it shall
134	provide written notice of noncompliance to the local board of education as provided for
135	in paragraph (4) of this subsection.
136	(3) No revision of a social media policy which has been deemed compliant pursuant to
137	paragraph (2) of this subsection shall be implemented until such revision is reviewed by
138	the State Board of Education. If the State Board of Education fails to provide a notice of
139	noncompliance for the revision within 60 days of its receipt, the local board of education
140	may proceed with the implementation of the revision.
141	(4)(A) The State Board of Education shall be responsible for conducting any necessary
142	investigations and making written determinations as to whether a local board of
143	education has failed to comply with the requirements of this Code section.
144	(B) If the State Board of Education determines that a local board of education has
145	failed to comply with the requirements of this Code section, it shall provide a written
146	notice of noncompliance to such local board of education and the local board of

147	education shall have 30 days from the receipt of such notice to correct such
148	noncompliance and to develop a corrective action plan for preventing future
149	recurrences. The State Board of Education may extend such 30 day period upon a
150	showing of good cause by the local board of education.
151	(5)(A) The State Board of Education shall be authorized to take corrective action,
152	including, but not limited to, withholding a portion of state funding to a local school
153	system or public school, as provided for in Code Section 20-2-243, if such local board
154	of education fails to comply with the provisions of this Code section or fails to enforce
155	or substantially disregards its social media policy.
156	(B) If the State Board of Education provides a notice of noncompliance to a local board
157	of education regarding its social media policy or any revision thereof or notifies the
158	local board of education that it is subject to the withholding of state funding pursuant
159	to subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, such local board of education may bring an
160	action against the State Board of Education seeking appropriate relief from the superior
161	court of the county where the local board of education is headquartered.
162	(g)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Code section to the contrary, a public
163	school administrator or his or her designee may disable the software program or online
164	technology being utilized to block access to social media platforms for any adult or for
165	a minor student who provides written consent from his or her parent or guardian to enable
166	access to one or more social media platforms for bona fide research or other lawful
167	purpose.
168	(2) Nothing in paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be construed to permit any person
169	to have access to any information, material, or platform the content of which is illegal

170 <u>under federal or state law.</u>"

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171	SECTION 2-4.
172	Said chapter is further amended in Subpart 2 of Part 2 of Article 16, relating to public school
173	disciplinary tribunals for students, by revising Code Section 20-2-751.4, relating to policies
174	prohibiting bullying, assignment to alternative school, and notice, as follows:
175	"20-2-751.4.
176	(a) As used in this Code section, the term:
177	(1)(A) Bullying' 'bullying' means an act that is:
178	(1)(i) Any willful attempt or threat to inflict injury on another person, when
179	accompanied by an apparent present ability to do so;
180	(2)(ii) Any intentional display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear
181	or expect immediate bodily harm; or
182	(3)(iii) Any intentional written, verbal, or physical act which a reasonable person
183	would perceive as being intended to threaten, harass, or intimidate, that:
184	(A)(I) Causes another person substantial physical harm within the meaning of Code
185	Section 16-5-23.1 or visible bodily harm as such term is defined in Code Section
186	16-5-23.1;
187	(B)(II) Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education or
188	otherwise substantially infringing upon the rights of a student;
189	(C)(III) Is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or
190	threatening educational environment; or
191	(D)(IV) Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the
192	school.
193	(B) Except as provided in subparagraph (C) of this paragraph, such The term applies
194	to acts which occur on school property, on school vehicles, at designated school bus
195	stops, or at school related functions or activities, including, but not limited to,
196	extracurricular activities. or by use of data or software that is accessed through a

197	computer, computer system, computer network, or other electronic technology of a
198	local school system. The term also applies to acts
199	(C) Such term includes acts of cyberbullying which occur through the use of electronic
200	communication, whether or not such electronic act that:
201	(i) Originate originated on school property, involve the use of or with school
202	equipment, or occur within a school sponsored online activity; or
203	(ii) Do not meet the requirements of division (i) of this subparagraph but do involve
204	serious or severe bullying or harassment targeting one or more particular students or
205	school personnel or threats aimed at students or school personnel. if the electronic
206	communication (1) is directed specifically at students or school personnel, (2) is
207	maliciously intended for the purpose of threatening the safety of those specified or
208	substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school, and (3) creates a
209	reasonable fear of harm to the students' or school personnel's person or property or
210	has a high likelihood of succeeding in that purpose. For purposes of this Code
211	section, electronic communication includes but is not limited to any transfer of signs,
212	signals, writings, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in
213	whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photo electronic or photo optical
214	system.
215	(2) 'Cyberbullying' means bullying that involves the use of electronic communication,
216	including, but not limited to, communication devices and services, including, but not
217	limited to, cellular telephones, cameras, computers, social media platforms, text
218	messages, chat platforms, and internet sites.
219	(3) 'Electronic communication' means, but is not limited to, any transfer of signs, signals,
220	writings, images, sounds, data, or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in
221	part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photoelectronic, or photo-optical system. Such
222	term shall include photographs and video and audio recordings.

223	(4) 'Extracurricular activities' has the same meaning as defined in Code Section
224	<u>20-2-319.6.</u>
225	(5) 'Parent' means a person who has legal authority to act on behalf of a minor child as
226	a natural or adoptive parent or a legal guardian.
227	(6) 'School equipment' means any computer or computer networking equipment,
228	technology or technology related device or service, or communication system or service
229	that is operated, owned, leased, or otherwise provided by a local board of education, local
230	school system, or public school and that is used for transmitting, receiving, accessing,
231	viewing, hearing, downloading, recording, or storing electronic communication.
232	(7) 'Transmit' means to send or broadcast an electronic communication.
233	(b) No later than August 1, 2011 July 1, 2025:
234	(1) Each local board of education shall adopt a policy that prohibits bullying, including,
235	without limitation, cyberbullying, of a student by another by a student and shall require
236	such prohibition to be included in the student code of conduct for schools in that school
237	system;
238	(2) Each local board policy shall require that, upon a finding by the disciplinary hearing
239	officer, panel, or tribunal of school officials provided for in this subpart that a student in
240	grades six through 12 has committed the offense of bullying for the third time in a school
241	year, such student shall be assigned to an alternative school;
242	(3) Each local board of education shall establish and publish in its local board policy a
243	method to notify the parent, guardian, or other person who has control or charge of a
244	student upon a finding by a school administrator that such student has committed an
245	offense of bullying or is a target or suspected victim of bullying. Such notice shall, as
246	appropriate under the circumstances, include references to resources for counseling and
247	other appropriate services for students who have been found to have committed an
248	offense of bullying or are targets or suspected victims of bullying; and

(4) Each local board of education shall ensure that students and parents <u>and guardians</u>
of students are notified of the prohibition against bullying, and the penalties for violating
the prohibition, by posting such information at each school and by including such
information in student and parent handbooks; and

(5) Each local board of education shall establish a process to regularly evaluate and
update the use of technology solutions to aid in the prevention of cyberbullying on school
equipment, including, but not limited to, monitoring software intended to provide
electronic notification when the occurrence of cyberbullying is detected on such
equipment. Any such notification shall be treated as a report of alleged bullying.

(c) No later than January 1, 2011 2025, the Department of Education shall develop a
model policy regarding bullying, that may be revised from time to time, and shall post such
policy on its website in order to assist local school systems. Such model policy shall
include:

262 (1) A statement prohibiting bullying;

(2) A requirement that any teacher or other school employee who has reliable
information that would lead a reasonable person to suspect that someone is a target of
bullying shall immediately report it to the school principal;

(3) A requirement that each school have a procedure for the school administration to
promptly investigate in a timely manner and determine whether bullying has occurred;
(4) An age-appropriate range of consequences for bullying which shall include, at
minimum and without limitation, disciplinary action or counseling as appropriate under
the circumstances;

271 (5) <u>Age-appropriate interventions and services, including, but not limited to, counseling</u>

272 services, to be made available, as appropriate under the circumstances, to students who

273 <u>are targets or suspected victims of bullying;</u>

274 (6) A procedure for a teacher or other school employee, student, parent, guardian, or 275 other person who has control or charge of a student, either anonymously or in such

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- person's name, at such person's option, to report or otherwise provide information onbullying activity;
- 278 (6)(7) A statement prohibiting retaliation following a report of bullying; and
- 279 (7)(8) Provisions consistent with the requirements of subsection (b) of this Code section.
- 280 (d) <u>No later than January 1, 2025, the The</u> Department of Education shall develop and post
- on its website:
- 282 (1) A $\frac{1}{a}$ list of entities and their contact information which produce antibullying training
- programs and materials deemed appropriate by the department for use in local school
- systems. Such list shall include at least one entity that provides awareness and training
- 285 programs relating to cyberbullying; and
- 286 (2) A list of online and in-person providers of counseling and other appropriate services
- 287 for students who have been found by school officials to have committed an offense of
- 288 <u>bullying or are targets or suspected victims of bullying</u>. Such list shall include in-person
- 289 providers available to families in areas throughout the state.
- 290 (e) Any person who reports an incident of bullying in good faith shall be immune from
- 291 civil liability for any damages caused by such reporting.
- 292 (f) Nothing in this Code section or in the model policy promulgated by the Department of
- 293 Education shall be construed to require a local board of education to provide transportation
- to a student transferred to another school as a result of a bullying incident.
- 295 (g) Any school system which is not in compliance with the requirements of subsection (b)
- 296 of this Code section shall be ineligible to receive state funding pursuant to Code Sections
- 297 20-2-161 and 20-2-260."

	24 LC 49 1561
298	PART III
299	SECTION 3-1.
300	Title 39 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to minors, is amended by adding
301	a new chapter to read as follows:
302	" <u>CHAPTER 6</u>
202	20 (1
303	<u>39-6-1.</u>
304	As used in this chapter, the term:
305	(1) 'Account holder' means a person who is a resident of this state and has an account or
306	profile to use a social media platform, including a minor account holder.
307	(2) 'Educational entity' means:
308	(A) A public elementary or secondary school, including without exception public
309	schools provided for under Articles 31, 31A, and 31C of Chapter 2 of Title 20;
310	(B) A private elementary or secondary school;
311	(C) A unit of the University System of Georgia;
312	(D) A unit of the Technical College System of Georgia;
313	(E) An independent or private college or university located in Georgia and eligible to
314	be deemed an 'approved school' pursuant to paragraph (2) of Code Section 20-3-411;
315	<u>or</u>
316	(F) A nonpublic postsecondary educational institution provided for in Part 1A of
317	Article 7 of Chapter 3 of Title 20.
318	(3) 'Minor' means an individual who resides in this state and is actually known or
319	reasonably believed by a social media platform to be under the age of 16 years.
320	(4) 'Minor account holder' means an account holder who is a minor.

321	(5) 'Post' means content that an account holder makes available on a social media
322	platform for other account holders or users to view or listen to, including text, images,
323	audio, and video.
324	(6) 'Social media platform' means an online forum that allows an account holder to create
325	a profile, upload posts, view and listen to posts, and interact with other account holders
326	and users. Such term shall not include an online service, website, or application where
327	the predominant or exclusive function is any of the following:
328	(A) Email;
329	(B) A service that, pursuant to its terms of use, does not permit minors to use the
330	platform and utilizes commercially reasonable age assurance mechanisms to deter
331	minors from becoming account holders;
332	(C) A streaming service that provides only licensed media that is not user generated
333	in a continuous flow from the service, website, or application to the end user and does
334	not obtain a license to the media from a user or account holder by agreement to its
335	terms of service;
336	(D) News, sports, entertainment, or other content that is preselected by the provider
337	and not user generated, and any chat, comment, or interactive functionality that is
338	provided incidental to or directly or indirectly related to such content;
339	(E) Online shopping or electronic commerce, if the interaction with other users or
340	account holders is generally limited to the ability to upload a post and comment on
341	reviews, the ability to display lists or collections of goods for sale or wish lists, and any
342	other functions that are focused on online shopping or electronic commerce rather than
343	interaction between users or account holders;
344	(F) Interactive gaming, virtual gaming, or an online service, website, or application that
345	allows the creation and uploading of content for the purpose of interactive gaming,
346	educational entertainment, or associated entertainment, and communications related to
347	that content;

348	(G) Photograph editing that has an associated photograph hosting service if the
349	interaction with other users or account holders is generally limited to liking or
350	commenting;
351	(H) Single-purpose community groups for public safety if the interaction with other
352	users or account holders is limited to that single purpose and the community group has
353	guidelines or policies against illegal content;
354	(I) Business-to-business software;
355	(J) Teleconferencing or videoconferencing services that allow reception and
356	transmission of audio and video signals for real-time communication;
357	(K) Cloud storage;
358	(L) Shared document collaboration;
359	(M) Cloud computing services, which may include cloud storage and shared document
360	collaboration;
361	(N) Providing access to or interacting with data visualization platforms, libraries, or
362	<u>hubs;</u>
363	(O) Permitting comments on a digital news website if the news content is posted only
364	by the provider of the digital news website;
365	(P) Providing or obtaining technical support for a platform, product, or service;
366	(Q) Academic, scholarly, or genealogical research where the majority of the content
367	is created or posted by the provider of the online service, website, or application and
368	the ability to chat, comment, or interact with other users is directly related to the
369	provider's content;
370	(R) Internet access and broadband service;
371	(S) A classified advertising service in which the provider of the online service, website,
372	or application is limited to all of the following:
373	(i) Permitting only the sale of goods;
374	(ii) Prohibiting the solicitation of personal services;

- 375 (iii) Posting or creating a substantial amount of the content; and
- 376 (iv) Providing the ability to chat, comment, or interact with other users only if it is
- 377 <u>directly related to the provider's content; or</u>
- 378 (T) An online service, website, or application that is used by or under the direction of
- 379 <u>an educational entity, including a learning management system, student engagement</u>
- 380 program, or subject- or skill-specific program, where the majority of the content is
- 381 <u>created or posted by the provider of the online service, website, or application and the</u>
- ability to chat, comment, or interact with other users is directly related to the provider's
 content.
- 384 (7) 'User' means a person who has access to view all or some of the posts on a social
- 385 media platform, but who is not an account holder.
- <u>386 <u>39-6-2.</u></u>
- 387 (a) The provider of a social media platform shall make commercially reasonable efforts
- 388 to verify the age of account holders with a level of certainty appropriate to the risks that
- 389 arise from the social media platform's information management practices or shall apply the
- 390 special conditions applied to minors under this chapter to all account holders.
- 391 (b) The provider of a social media platform shall treat as a minor any individual such
- 392 provider verifies to be under the age of 16 years.
- 393 (c) No provider of a social media platform shall permit a minor to be an account holder
- 394 <u>unless such provider obtains the express consent of such minor's parent or guardian.</u>
- 395 Acceptable methods of obtaining express consent from a parent or guardian include:
- 396 (1) Providing a form for the minor's parent or guardian to sign and return to the social
- 397 <u>media platform by common carrier, facsimile, email, or scanning;</u>
- 398 (2) Providing a toll-free telephone number for the minor's parent or guardian to call to
- 399 <u>consent;</u>

400	(3) Coordinating a call with the minor's parent or guardian using videoconferencing
401	technology;
402	(4) Collecting information related to the minor's parent's or guardian's government issued
403	identification and deleting such information after confirming the identity of the parent or
404	guardian;
405	(5) Allowing the minor's parent or guardian to provide consent by responding to an email
406	and taking additional steps to verify the parent's or guardian's identity; and
407	(6) Any other commercially reasonable method of obtaining consent using available
408	technology.
409	(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, no provider of a social media
410	platform shall permit a minor to hold or open an account on the social media platform if
411	the minor is ineligible to hold or open an account under any other provision of state or
412	federal law.
413	(e) The provider of a social media platform shall make available, upon the request of a
414	parent or guardian of a minor, a list and description of the features offered by the social
415	media platform related to censoring or moderating content available on the social media
416	platform, including any features that can be disabled or modified by an account holder.
417	<u>39-6-3.</u>
418	For a minor account holder, the provider of a social media platform shall prohibit all of the
419	following:
420	(1) The display of any advertising in the minor account holder's account based on such
421	minor account holder's personal information, except age and location; and
422	(2) The collection or use of personal information from the posts, content, messages, text,
423	or usage activities of the minor account holder's account other than what is adequate,
424	relevant, and reasonably necessary for the purposes for which such information is
425	collected, as disclosed to the minor.

- 426 <u>39-6-4.</u>
- 427 (a) The Attorney General shall have exclusive authority to enforce the provisions of this
 428 chapter.
- 429 (b) Nothing in this chapter shall be interpreted to serve as the basis for a private right of
- 430 action under this chapter or any other law.
- 431 (c) Subject to the ability to cure an alleged violation under subsection (d) of this Code
- 432 <u>section, the Attorney General may initiate an action and seek damages for up to \$2,500.00</u>
- 433 for each violation under this chapter.
- 434 (d) At least 90 days before the day on which the Attorney General initiates an enforcement
- 435 action against a person or entity that is subject to the requirements of this chapter, the
- 436 <u>Attorney General shall provide the person or entity with a written notice that identifies each</u>
- 437 <u>alleged violation and an explanation of the basis for each allegation</u>. The Attorney General
- 438 <u>shall not initiate an action if the person or entity cures the noticed violation within 90 days</u>
- 439 of receiving notice from the Attorney General and provides the Attorney General with a
- 440 <u>written statement indicating that the alleged violation is cured.</u>
- 441 <u>39-6-5.</u>
- 442 No provision in a contract, statement of terms or conditions, or any other purported
- 443 agreement, including, but not limited to, a choice of law provision, a waiver or limitation,
- 444 or a purported waiver or limitation, may be utilized to prevent the application of this
- 445 chapter or prevent, limit, or otherwise interfere with any person's or entity's right to
- 446 <u>cooperate with the Attorney General or to file a complaint with the Attorney General. Any</u>
- 447 such provision shall be null and void and unenforceable as contrary to public policy, and
- 448 <u>a court or arbitrator shall not enforce or give effect to any such provision.</u>"

	24 LC 49 1561
449	PART IV
450	SECTION 4-1.
451	This part and Parts I and II of this Act shall become effective on July 1, 2024. Part III of this

- 452 Act shall become effective on July 1, 2025.
- 453 **SECTION 4-2.**
- 454 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.