

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2553 Session of  
2024

INTRODUCED BY MERCURI, PICKETT, PARKER AND SCIALABBA,  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION, TECHNOLOGY AND  
UTILITIES, SEPTEMBER 17, 2024

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of December 17, 1968 (P.L.1224, No.387),  
2 entitled "An act prohibiting unfair methods of competition  
3 and unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the conduct of  
4 any trade or commerce, giving the Attorney General and  
5 District Attorneys certain powers and duties and providing  
6 penalties," prohibiting the use of social media platforms by  
7 minors.

8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
9 hereby enacts as follows:

10 Section 1. The act of December 17, 1968 (P.L.1224, No.387),  
11 known as the Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law,  
12 is amended by adding a section read:

13 Section 9.5. Prohibition on Use of Social Media Platforms by  
14 Minors.--(a) A social media company shall prohibit an  
15 individual who is younger than 14 years of age from using the  
16 company's social media platform.

17 (b) A social media platform shall have the following duties:

18 (1) Require the social media platform's users to use an  
19 account to access the social media platform.

20 (2) Certify that each account is held by an individual who

1 is at least 14 years of age.

2 (c) A social media platform shall verify the age of an  
3 account holder by requiring that the account holder provide a  
4 copy of the account holder's driver's license and an additional  
5 photo identification showing both the account holder and the  
6 driver's license in a manner that allows the social media  
7 company to verify the identity of the account holder.

8 (d) A social media company may only use the personal  
9 information provided under subsection (c) for age verification  
10 purposes. The social media company shall delete the personal  
11 information immediately upon completion of the age verification  
12 process.

13 (e) No later than ten days after receiving a request from a  
14 parent, a social media company shall delete the account of the  
15 parent's child and cease the further use or maintenance in  
16 retrievable form, or the future online collection, of the  
17 personal information collected from the child's account on the  
18 company's social media platform. The social media company shall  
19 provide a reasonable, accessible and verifiable means by which a  
20 parent can make a request under this subsection.

21 (f) A social media company commits a violation of this  
22 section if the social media company knowingly:

23 (1) allows a minor to use the company's platform in a manner  
24 prohibited under subsection (a);

25 (2) uses or retains personal information in a manner  
26 prohibited under subsection (d) or (e); or

27 (3) fails to remove an account as required under subsection  
28 (e).

29 (g) The Attorney General shall enforce the provisions of  
30 this section. Violations committed under subsection (f) shall be

1 considered unfair methods of competition and unfair or deceptive  
2 acts or practices and shall be subject to the penalties imposed  
3 under this act.

4 (h) This section shall apply to an individual who is younger  
5 than 14 years of age upon the amendment of the definition of  
6 "child" in 15 U.S.C. § 6501 (relating to definitions) as  
7 necessary to implement this section.

8 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.