

S.B. 194 and H.B. 464

Overview

Sen. McKell and Rep. Teuscher are sponsoring S.B. 194 and H.B. 464 during the 2024 General Session to protect minors who engage on social media platforms by blocking harmful and addictive product features, protecting their privacy and giving parents the tools and resources they need to keep their children safe.

S.B. 194 *Social Media Regulation Amendments*

- Enacts a strict age verification process in order to create a safer experience for minors.
- Requires default privacy settings for a minor account holder, which can only be overridden by a parent or guardian, which would block direct messages, sharing and visibility to minors without being “friends” on the platform.
- Disables search engine indexing and implements security measures.
- Disables features that lead to excessive use, including autoplay, perpetual scrolling and push notifications.
- Requires social media companies to offer parents or legal guardians tools to oversee minor accounts, including:
 - Setting time limits
 - Scheduling mandatory breaks
 - Viewing total and daily average use time
 - Seeing connected accounts
- Prevents social media companies from collecting and selling data on minors without consent from a verifiable parent or legal guardian.

H.B. 464 *Social Media Regulation Act Amendments*

- Gives minors and their parents or legal guardians the ability to hold social media companies liable for the harm addictive algorithms have caused children through a private right of action.
- Allows social media companies to legally overcome the assumption that their products cause harm if they:
 - Obtain parental consent for a minor’s use of the platform
 - Remove features causing excessive use: autoplay, perpetual scrolling, and push notifications
 - Display content chronologically
 - Limit a minor’s time on the platform