

**SENATE . . . . . No.**

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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PRESENTED BY:

*Ryan C. Fattman*

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*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:*

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the adoption of the accompanying bill:

An Act relative to youth social media safety.

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PETITION OF:

NAME:

*Ryan C. Fattman*

DISTRICT/ADDRESS:

*Worcester and Hampden*

**SENATE . . . . . No.**

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By Mr. Fattman, a petition (accompanied by bill) (subject to Joint Rule 12) of Ryan C. Fattman for legislation relative to youth social media safety. The Judiciary.

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**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

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**In the One Hundred and Ninety-Fourth General Court  
(2025-2026)**  
\_\_\_\_\_

An Act relative to youth social media safety.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:*

1           The 2024 Official Edition of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after  
2 chapter 93L the following chapter:-

3           CHAPTER 93M.

4           REGULATING THE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM ACCOUNTS FOR  
5 MINORS

6           SECTION 1. As used in this chapter, the following words shall have the following  
7 meanings unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

8           (a) “Social media platform” means a website or internet application that a social media  
9 company makes available for an individual to create an account to communicate with other  
10 account holders or users through posts, messages, comments, images, videos, livestreams, or  
11 other content, whether publicly or privately, and that includes features designed to enable social  
12 interaction, content sharing, and algorithmic content feeds.

13 (b) “Minor” means any individual younger than eighteen years of age.

14 (c) “Parent or guardian” means a person having legal custody of a minor, including a  
15 biological or adoptive parent, legal guardian, or court-appointed custodian.

16 (d) “Account” means a persistent, user-specific identity created on a social media  
17 platform enabling posting, messaging, following, subscribing, or other interactive features.

18 (e) “Hours of use” means cumulative active usage time of a social media platform  
19 account measured by the platform, excluding time spent solely on age-verification prompts or  
20 consent processes.

21 (f) “Department” means the department of elementary and secondary education.

22 SECTION 2. AGE-BASED ELIGIBILITY AND ACCESS.

23 (a) Commencing November 1, 2026, a social media platform may not permit a minor  
24 under the age of fifteen to be an account holder. Social media platforms shall implement  
25 reasonable age-verification mechanisms to prevent account creation by such individuals.

26 (b) For those age fifteen and sixteen, a social media platform may permit account  
27 creation only upon verified parental or guardian consent and must enforce a cap on hours not to  
28 exceed a baseline daily maximum of two hours of use per calendar day.

29 (c) For those age seventeen, a social media platform may permit account creation only  
30 upon verified parental or guardian consent and must enforce a cap on hours not to exceed a  
31 baseline daily maximum of three hours of use per calendar day.

32 (d) Upon an account holder's eighteenth birthday, as recorded by the initial birthdate  
33 selected during account creation, the platform shall notify the user that all minor restrictions have  
34 been lifted and cease enforcement of the minor-specific requirements herein, except as otherwise  
35 required by law.

### 36 SECTION 3. PENALTIES

37 (a) Civil penalties. A social media platform that knowingly or negligently permits  
38 account creation or continued use in violation of section 2 shall be subject to a civil penalty not  
39 to exceed \$10,000 per violation.

### 40 SECTION 4. ENFORCEMENT

41 The department shall promulgate regulations to enforce this act and shall:

42 (a) Establish processes or means by which a social media company may meet the age  
43 verification requirements of this chapter; provided, however, that social media platforms shall  
44 collect only the minimum personal data necessary to verify age and parental consent

45 (b) Establish acceptable forms or methods of identification

46 (c) Establish requirements for providing confirmation of the receipt of any information  
47 provided by a person seeking to verify age under this chapter

48 (d) Establish processes or means to confirm that a parent or guardian has provided  
49 consent for the minor to open or use an account pursuant to the provisions of this chapter

50 (e) Establish requirements for retaining, protecting, and securely disposing of any  
51 information obtained by a social media company or its agent as a result of compliance with the  
52 requirements of this chapter

53 (f) Require that information obtained by a social media company or its agent in order to  
54 comply with age verification requirements may not be used for any other purpose; provided,  
55 however, that if the department permits an agent to process verification requirements, that the  
56 agent have its principal place of business in the United States of America

57 (g) Promulgate these regulations consistent with state and federal law

58 SECTION 5. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.