

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
BILL SUMMARY**

**BILL NO.** H1797

**TITLE:** An Act establishing a special legislative commission to study the use of IVRs and other strategies by social media platforms.

**SPONSOR:** Rep. Bradley H. Jones, Jr.

**COSPONSOR(S):** Rep. Kimberly N. Ferguson Rep. Todd M. Smola  
Rep. Paul K. Frost Rep. Kelly W. Pease

**HEARING DATE:** July 15, 2025

**PRIOR HISTORY:** None

**SENATE BILL:** None

**REPORTING DEADLINE:** September 13, 2025 (subject extensions, in accordance with House Rule 27)

**CURRENT LAW:** Section 2-314 of Part 3 of Article 2 of Chapter 106 of the General Laws implies in a contract for the sale of goods a warranty that the goods are merchantable, including that they are fit for their ordinary purpose, adequately contained, packaged and labeled and conform to the promises or affirmations of fact made on their container or label.

Section 230 of the Federal Communications Decency Act grants immunity to providers of interactive computer services from liability for publishing content created by third parties.

**BILL SUMMARY:** Section 1 – Establishes a special legislative commission to study the use of intermittent variable rewards (IVRs) and other strategies by social media platforms including how they are used as a psychologically manipulative tool to prolong adolescent users’ time spent on these platforms.

Section 2 – The commission shall consist of: (i) Chairs of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary, who shall serve as co-chairs; (ii) 1 member appointed by the Speaker of the House; (iii) 1 member appointed by the President of the Senate; (iv) 1 member appointed by the Minority Leader of the House; (v) 1 member appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate; (vi) the Commissioner of Mental Health or their designee; (vii) the Secretary of Public

Health or their designee; and (viii) the Attorney General or their designee.

Section 3 – The commission will submit its report to the clerk’s office of the House and Senate within 1 year of passage of the Act.