

Chapter 111

2026 Regular Session

Subject Social Media Platforms; Minor Account Requirements**Bill** H.F. 4138**Analyst** Mary Davis**Date** May 27, 2026

Overview

This new law, referred to as Stop Harms from Addictive Social Media or SHASM, requires age estimation and verification by social media platforms and requires parental approval for accounts for users 15 years old and younger. It also requires specific treatment of accounts for children under 16 years of age related to addictive features, paid advertising, and the creation and termination of accounts. This section also creates penalties for violations of these provisions including a private cause of action and enforcement by the Office of the Attorney General.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	Transparency requirements for social media platforms.
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Adds an explanation of any age estimation software being used to the current list of things a social media platform has to publicly provide on their website.

2	Stop Harms from Addictive Social Media.
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Subd. 1. Definitions. Provides definitions for the SHASM section of law, including:

- “account holder” who is located in Minnesota;
- “addictive interface feature” such as infinite scrolling, a profile-based feed (meaning content provided to a person based on their personal information), push notifications, and autoplay on videos;
- “child” which in this section is anyone 15 years or younger;
- “covered social media platform” which includes a website or application that allows users to communicate with each other through posts that earned more than \$1 billion in advertising;
- “minor” who is under 18 years of age; and
- “verifiable parental consent” as given in the Children’s Online Privacy and Protection Act (federal COPPA).

Section	Description
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	Subd. 2. Age estimation; requirements. Requires social media platforms to determine the age of a user and if the user appears to be under 16 to follow the requirements of the section. This section also requires continued monitoring to determine the age of the user.
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	Subd. 3. Creation and maintenance of child account. Requires applicants for social media accounts to provide the month and year of their birth date. Requires verifiable parental consent to create an account for a user under 16.
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	Subd. 4. Privacy and parental limitations for child account. Requires the default settings on a social media account for a child to be the most private and prohibits a child in the privacy settings without parental consent. Requires the social media platform to offer certain options to parents to monitor and limit platform use when creating or continuing a child account.
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	Subd. 5. Prohibitions on addictive interface; presentation of paid commercial advertising. Provides that addictive interface features and targeted paid ads cannot be displayed on a child's account.
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	Subd. 6. Termination of child account. Requires the social media platform to terminate a child's account if they cannot get verifiable parental consent, or if a request is made to terminate the account by either the account holder or the parent.
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	Subd. 7. Verifiable parental consent; records. Requires social media platforms to retain records to prove they obtained consent for a child's account.
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	Subd. 8. Contract provisions. Provides that contracts cannot violate this section or waive portions of this section.
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	Subd. 9. Enforcement; remedies. Allows a parent or child to sue a social media company for violations under this section for injunctive relief, court costs, and attorney fees, and statutory damages of \$10,000 or actual damages, whichever is greater. This section also allows punitive damages when there has been a consistent pattern of reckless or knowing violations.
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	This section requires that lawsuits must be filed within three years of the violation, or three years after the child account holder turns 18.
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	Social media companies that use reasonable efforts and available technology to comply with the requirements of this section shall not be found liable under this chapter.
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Section	Description
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	Subd. 10. Deceptive trade practices. Provides that a violation of this section is also a violation of the state Deceptive Trade Practices Act which is enforceable by the state attorney general.
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	Effective date. Provides that this section is effective on July 1, 2027, and applies to social media accounts created before, on, or after that date.
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