

Subject Consumer protection: online age verification

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Overview

This bill would require websites where 25 percent or more of the webpages feature pornography to verify that a person seeking to access the website is 18 or older.

Summary

Section Description

1 Age verification for internet content harmful to minors.

Creates a new statute requiring age verification for certain websites.

Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines key terms, including “material harmful to minors.”

Subd. 2. Age verification required. Requires commercial entities to verify that a person is 18 or older before the person can access a website where 25 percent or more of the webpages contain “material harmful to minors.” Sets standards for age verification and authorizes the commissioner of commerce to review and approve reliable age verification methods.

Subd. 3. Data privacy. Prohibits a commercial entity that performs age verification from retaining a person’s identifying information. Creates civil liability for a violation.

Subd. 4. Enforcement; civil penalties. Provides for enforcement by the attorney general under its existing authority. Also creates a new cause of action, with civil penalties, for a parent or guardian of a minor who accesses a website without age verification in violation of this section.

Subd. 5. Limitations. Excludes internet service providers and users of “interactive computer services” (a defined term) from obligations and liabilities under this section.



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