

SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
**HOUSE BILL NO. 1818**  
**103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

5298H.02C

JOSEPH ENGLER, Chief Clerk

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**AN ACT**

To amend chapter 407, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to regulation of online content involving minors.

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*Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:*

Section A. Chapter 407, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be  
2 known as section 407.2100, to read as follows:

**407.2100. 1. As used in this section, the following terms shall mean:**

- 2       **(1) "Account holder", an individual who has opened an account on a social**  
3 **media platform;**  
4       **(2) "Content creator", any individual residing in the state who creates an image,**  
5 **audio content, or video content in exchange for compensation. A content creator**  
6 **includes, but is not limited to: vloggers, podcasters, social media influencers, or**  
7 **streamers;**  
8       **(3) "Minor", any person under eighteen years of age;**  
9       **(4) "Restricted material", any material that is obscene, as defined in section**  
10 **573.010, or depicts:**  
11       **(a) Explicit sexual material, as defined in section 573.010;**  
12       **(b) Nudity, as defined in section 573.010; or**  
13       **(c) Sexually explicit conduct, as defined in section 573.010;**  
14       **(5) "Social graph", a list of people that an account holder is connected to using a**  
15 **friending function, or a similar function, on a social media platform. Subscribing to**  
16 **content from another account holder does not constitute a friending function;**

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets ~~thus~~ in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

17           **(6) "Social media platform", an internet-based service or application that has**  
18 **account holders in the state and that meets all of the following criteria with respect to**  
19 **account holders:**

20           **(a) The service or application connects account holders to allow them to interact**  
21 **socially with each other within the service or application;**

22           **(b) The service or application permits public posting of content generated by**  
23 **account holders without visibility being limited to a particular social graph; and**

24           **(c) The service or application permits interaction with other account holders'**  
25 **content outside a limited social graph, including content recommended from any person**  
26 **an account holder has not subscribed to or does not follow;**

27           **(7) "Uniquely identifiable", any information, including but not limited to, an**  
28 **image, voice recording, video recording, or a photograph that can be used to distinguish**  
29 **or trace an individual's identity.**

30           **2. A minor shall be considered engaged in the work of content creation when the**  
31 **following criteria have been met at any time during the previous twelve-month period:**

32           **(1) At least thirty percent of the content creator's compensated image, audio**  
33 **content, or video content produced within a thirty-day period includes the likeness,**  
34 **name, voice, or a photograph of such minor. Content percentage shall be measured by**  
35 **the percentage of time the likeness, name, or photograph of the minor visually appears**  
36 **or the minor is the subject of or a participant in a segment of audio or video content**  
37 **compared to the total length of the segment;**

38           **(2) The number of views received per image, audio segment, or video segment on**  
39 **any social media platform met the social media platform's threshold for the generation**  
40 **of compensation or the content creator received actual compensation per image, audio**  
41 **segment, or video segment equal to or greater than ten cents per view; and**

42           **(3) The content creator received actual compensation for image, audio segment,**  
43 **or video content of at least twenty-five thousand dollars during the prior twelve-month**  
44 **period.**

45           **3. A minor who is thirteen years of age or older may produce, create, and**  
46 **publish his or her own content and shall be entitled to all compensation for his or her**  
47 **content creation.**

48           **4. (1) Any content creator whose content features a minor engaged in the work**  
49 **of content creation, as described in subsection 2 of this section, shall maintain the**  
50 **following records and shall retain such records until the minor reaches twenty-one years**  
51 **of age:**

52           **(a) The name and documentary proof of age of the minor engaged in the work of**  
53 **content creation at the time the content was created;**

54           **(b) The total number of social media posts that generated compensation during**  
55 **the reporting period;**

56           **(c) The total number of minutes of the social media posts that the content creator**  
57 **received compensation for during the reporting period;**

58           **(d) The total number of minutes each minor was featured in social media posts**  
59 **during the reporting period;**

60           **(e) The total compensation generated from social media posts featuring the**  
61 **minor during the reporting period; and**

62           **(f) The amount deposited in the trust account for the benefit of the minor**  
63 **engaged in content creation pursuant to the provisions of subsection 5 of this section.**

64           **(2) The records required under subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be readily**  
65 **available to the minor. The content creator shall provide notice to the minor of the**  
66 **existence of such records.**

67           **5. (1) A minor who is engaged in the work of content creation under this section**  
68 **shall be compensated by the content creator. The content creator shall set aside gross**  
69 **earnings on any content including, but not limited to, the likeness or name of the minor**  
70 **in a trust account to be preserved for the benefit of the minor upon the minor reaching**  
71 **eighteen years of age, as follows:**

72           **(a) Where only one minor meets the content threshold pursuant to subsection 2**  
73 **of this section, the percentage of the total gross earnings on any content including, but**  
74 **not limited to, the likeness or name of the minor that is equal to or greater than half of**  
75 **the content percentage that includes the minor, shall be paid into the minor's trust**  
76 **account; or**

77           **(b) Where more than one minor meets the content threshold pursuant to**  
78 **subsection 2 of this section and the content includes more than one of such minors, the**  
79 **percentage described in paragraph (a) of this subdivision for all minors shall be equally**  
80 **divided between the minors paid into a separate trust account for each minor.**

81           **(2) A trust account under this subsection shall be structured, at a minimum, as**  
82 **follows:**

83           **(a) The funds in the account shall be available only to the minor or minors**  
84 **engaged in the work of content creation;**

85           **(b) The account shall be held by a bank, financial institution, corporate**  
86 **fiduciary, or trust company authorized to do business in the state;**

87           **(c) The funds in the account shall become available to each minor engaged in the**  
88 **work of content creation upon the minor reaching eighteen years of age or upon a**  
89 **declaration that the minor is emancipated; and**

90 (d) The account shall meet the requirements of sections 404.005 to 404.094, the  
91 Missouri transfers to minors law.

92 6. (1) After August 28, 2026, any individual who was featured in a content  
93 creator's social media post as a minor may request that the content creator delete the  
94 post from the social media platform or edit the social media post to remove any content  
95 involving the minor. The content creator shall delete or edit the social media post if the  
96 individual proves his or her identity with uniquely identifiable information.

97 (2) Social media platforms shall provide an easily accessible mechanism through  
98 which an individual under subdivision (1) of this subsection can submit a request to the  
99 social media platform for the content creator to delete or edit any social media post  
100 described under subdivision (1) of this subsection.

101 (3) Social media platforms shall notify the content creator within a reasonable  
102 time period, but no longer than thirty days, after receiving a removal request under this  
103 subsection.

104 (4) The content creator shall delete or edit the social media post featuring the  
105 individual as a minor from the social media platform within seventy-two hours after  
106 receiving notice of a removal request from the social media platform under this  
107 subsection.

108 (5) If the content creator fails to delete or edit a social media post under this  
109 subsection within thirty days after receiving notice of a removal request from the social  
110 media platform, the social media platform shall take all reasonable steps to delete or edit  
111 the content involving the minor, unless:

112 (a) The individual who was featured in the content creator's post as a minor does  
113 not submit sufficient uniquely identifiable information; or

114 (b) The social media platform finds that the post is sufficiently newsworthy or of  
115 other public interest to outweigh the privacy interests of the minor.

116 7. It shall be unlawful to financially benefit from intentionally or knowingly  
117 producing or distributing on social media any visual depiction of a minor with the intent  
118 to sexually gratify or elicit a sexual response in the viewer or any other person, or any  
119 other restricted material involving a minor, except:

120 (1) In the case of an individual acting in good faith to report unlawful activity or  
121 in pursuance of a legal or professional or other lawful obligation;

122 (2) In the case of a document production or filing in connection with a legal  
123 proceeding;

124 (3) In the case of any lawfully authorized investigative, protective, or intelligence  
125 activity of a law enforcement agency of the United States, this state, a political  
126 subdivision of this state, or of an intelligence agency of the United States; or

127           **(4) In the case of a social media platform with regard to online content provided**  
128 **by content creators unless the social media platform intentionally solicits, or knowingly**  
129 **and predominantly distributes, such content.**

130           **8. This section shall not be construed to impose liability in a manner that is**  
131 **inconsistent with the federal Communications Decency Act of 1996, 47 U.S.C. sec. 230.**

132           **9. A social media platform shall develop and implement a strategy to help**  
133 **mitigate risks related to monetization of restricted material involving minors. Such**  
134 **strategy shall be documented and reassessed annually and may include:**

135           **(1) Policies that govern content and related monetization;**

136           **(2) Restrictions on content featuring minors;**

137           **(3) Use of any commercially reasonable system to identify and implement**  
138 **restrictions on any restricted material involving minors; and**

139           **(4) Any information informing content creators of their legal obligations under**  
140 **this section and any information explaining the steps to protect minors from appearing**  
141 **in restricted material under this section.**

142           **10. Any individual may report violations of this section to the attorney general.**  
143 **If the attorney general finds that provisions of this section have been violated, the**  
144 **attorney general shall bring a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction. If the**  
145 **court finds that provisions of this section have been violated, the court may award**  
146 **damages, injunctive relief, attorney's fees, and any such other relief the court finds**  
147 **appropriate. Nothing in this section shall preclude an individual from bringing a**  
148 **private civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction for any violations of this section.**

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