

HCS HBs 1839, 2921 & 3015 -- AGE VERIFICATION ON ADULT WEBSITES

SPONSOR: Gallick

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Children and Families by a vote of 17 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules-Administrative by a vote of 5 to 1.

The following is a summary of the House Committee Substitute for HB 1839, 2921, & 3015.

This bill requires any commercial entity for which it is the regular course of business to publish or distribute in the State a website in which at least 33% of the material published is harmful to minors, as defined in the bill, to verify that any person attempting to access the material is at least 18 years old. After verification, the commercial entity is prohibited from retaining any identifying information of the individual.

The bill does not apply to bona fide news or public interest broadcasts or other media and will not affect the rights of a news-gathering organization.

The Attorney General must enforce the provisions of the bill. If the Attorney General believes that a violation occurred and an action is in the public interest, the Attorney General can commence an action. If the court finds that a violation occurred, the court can grant relief. Civil penalty awards are specified in the bill.

This bill is similar to HB 2921; HB 3015 (2026); and HB 236 (2025).

The following is a summary of the public testimony from the committee hearing. The testimony was based on the introduced version of the bill.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this topic is rarely discussed due to shame and stigma, and exposure to pornography at a young age can shape all sorts of aspects of a person's health in a negative way. This is a common-sense measure to protect children and reduce the normalization of sexual harm.

Testifying in person for the bill were Representative Gallick; Missouri Catholic Conference; Heidi Olson; Timothy Faber; Childrens Trust Fund; Jeremiah Morgan, Missouri Attorney

General's Office; Missouri Coalition For Children; and Missouri Network Against Child Abuse.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced in person to the committee.

Written testimony has been submitted for this bill. The full written testimony and witnesses testifying online can be found under Testimony on the bill page on the House website.