

# 132nd MAINE LEGISLATURE

# FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2025

**Legislative Document** 

No. 844

H.P. 530

House of Representatives, March 4, 2025

An Act to Regulate Social Media Use by Minors Under 16 Years of Age

Reference to the Committee on Housing and Economic Development suggested and ordered printed.

ROBERT B. HUNT

R(+ B. Hunt

Clerk

Presented by Representative FREDETTE of Newport.

1	Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:
2	Sec. 1. 10 MRSA c. 239 is enacted to read:
3	CHAPTER 239
4	SOCIAL MEDIA SAFETY FOR MINORS
5	§1500-Z. Definitions
6 7	As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.
8 9	1. Account holder. "Account holder" means a person who has an account or profile to use a social media company's social media platform.
10 11	<b>2. Minor.</b> "Minor" has the same meaning as in Title 18-C, section 5-102, subsection 18.
12	3. Parent. "Parent" has the same meaning as in Title 19-A, section 101, subsection 8
13 14	4. Post. "Post" means content that an account holder makes available on a social media platform for other account holders to consume.
15 16	5. Social media company. "Social media company" means a person that is an interactive computer service and that provides a social media platform.
17 18	6. Social media platform. "Social media platform" means a website or Interne application that:
19	A. Allows a person to create an account; and
20 21	B. Enables an account holder to communicate with other account holders through posts.
22	§1500-AA. Use of social media platform; age requirements
23 24	1. Age verification. A social media company must verify the age of an individual who attempts to become an account holder.
25 26 27	2. Individuals under 14 years of age. A social media company may not allow ar individual who is a minor under 14 years of age to become an account holder or remain ar account holder.
28 29 30 31	3. Individuals who are 14 or 15 years of age. If an individual is a minor who is 14 or 15 years of age, the social media company must verify that express parental consent has been provided pursuant to section 1500-BB for the minor to become an account holder or remain an account holder.
32	§1500-BB. Parental consent; requirements
33 34 35	1. Verification of parental consent. To verify parental consent for an individual who is 14 or 15 years of age to become or remain an account holder, a social media company must require the individual's parent to provide:
36	A. A government-issued identification document; and

- B. Documentation verifying parental authorization.
  - 2. Retention and revocation of parental consent. Upon receipt of parental consent in accordance with subsection 1, a social media company shall retain those records for no less than 2 years. A social media company shall provide an easily accessible method for a parent to revoke parental consent and to request the termination of the individual's account for which the parent provided the consent.

### §1500-CC. Applicability

This chapter does not prohibit access to educational platforms or services specifically designed for minors, as long as such platforms are not primarily social media platforms.

# §1500-DD. Parental right to report

A parent or guardian of a minor who believes that the minor has been permitted to become an account holder of a social media company in violation of this chapter may file a complaint against the social media company with the Office of the Attorney General.

# §1500-EE. Enforcement; penalties

The Attorney General shall enforce the provisions of this chapter. A social media company that violates a provision of this chapter is subject to the following civil penalties recoverable by the Attorney General in a civil action.

- 1. No prior violations; penalty. A social media company that has no previous violations of this chapter may be fined an amount not to exceed \$10,000 per violation.
- 2. Prior violation; penalty. A social media company that is found to have a previous violation of this chapter may be fined an amount not to exceed \$25,000 per violation.

### §1500-FF. Rulemaking

The Office of the Attorney General shall adopt rules to implement this chapter. Rules must include, but are not limited to, procedures for verifying account holder age and parental consent. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

Sec. 2. Effective date. This Act takes effect January 1, 2026.

#### 28 SUMMARY

This bill requires social media companies to prohibit individuals under 14 years of age from becoming or remaining an account holder. The bill requires social media companies to verify the age of an individual who attempts to become an account holder and requires social media companies to obtain and verify parental consent of social media account holders who are 14 or 15 years of age. The bill requires the Attorney General to enforce these provisions and stipulates the penalties recoverable by the Attorney General. The bill also directs the Office of the Attorney General to adopt rules to implement the age verification and parental consent processes.