

# STATE OF NEW YORK

8558

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

## IN ASSEMBLY

December 13, 2021

Introduced by M. of A. VANEL -- read once and referred to the Committee on Consumer Affairs and Protection

AN ACT to amend the general business law, in relation to preventing interactive computer service providers from knowingly or negligently promoting developed content that is dangerous or otherwise injurious to minors

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. The general business law is amended by adding a new section  
2 394-ccc to read as follows:

3 § 394-ccc. Interactive computer service providers; developing injuri-  
4 ous content; minors. 1. As used in this section, the following terms  
5 shall have the following meanings:

6 (a) "interactive computer service providers" shall mean a service  
7 provider who operates in the state of New York, which, for profit-making  
8 purposes, operates an internet platform that is designed to disseminate  
9 public content generated by third parties;

10 (b) "content" shall mean the textual, visual or aural information that  
11 is generated by a third party or an interactive computer service provid-  
12 er;

13 (c) "promote" shall mean to present, or otherwise convey, third  
14 party-generated or interactive computer service provider-generated  
15 content to a targeted minor;

16 (d) "minor" shall mean any person under the age of eighteen who is  
17 located in the state of New York;

18 (e) "platform" means an application or website that serves as a base  
19 from which the interactive computer service is provided;

20 (f) "targeted minor" means a minor who uses the interactive computer  
21 service, and who the interactive computer service provider targets for  
22 the purpose of sending a developed message;

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 (g) "target, targets, targeted, or targeting" shall mean conveying  
2 content to a targeted minor solely on the basis of their personal data  
3 which includes, but is not limited to, the targeted minor's:

4 (i) location data, whether general or precise, including:

5 (A) the time of day in the minor's current or predicted future  
6 location;

7 (B) the weather in the minor's current or predicted future location;

8 (C) the local businesses in the minor's current or future predicted  
9 location;

10 (D) the natural, artificial, or planned events in the users current or  
11 future predicated location;

12 (E) political preferences in the minor's current or future predicted  
13 location; and/or

14 (F) landmarks in the minor's current or future predicted location.

15 (ii) income related activities, including the minor's:

16 (A) income level;

17 (B) profession;

18 (C) employment status;

19 (D) source of income; and/or

20 (E) investments.

21 (iii) relationship status, including whether the user is:

22 (A) single;

23 (B) married;

24 (C) divorced;

25 (D) engaging in an affair;

26 (E) in a domestic partnership;

27 (F) engaged;

28 (G) in a romantic or intimate social relationship; and/or

29 (H) is contemplating or is in the process of terminating a relation-  
30 ship.

31 (iv) social status, including whether the user:

32 (A) is a public official;

33 (B) is a public figure;

34 (C) is a limited purpose public figure;

35 (D) is involuntarily thrust into the public domain;

36 (E) receives a significant amount of engagements on the interactive  
37 computer service provider's platform; and/or

38 (F) receives an insignificant amount of engagements or is within a  
39 specific threshold of engagements on an interactive computer service  
40 provider's platform.

41 (v) psychological profile, whether generated based on psychological  
42 conditions set by the interactive computer service provider, or unique  
43 or generally accepted psychological conditions;

44 (vi) veteran status, including whether the user:

45 (A) has served in the armed forces of the United States or another  
46 country;

47 (B) is currently serving in the armed forces of the United States or  
48 another country;

49 (C) has been discharged, whether honorably, for medical reasons or  
50 otherwise; and/or

51 (D) is not a veteran nor a member of the armed forces of the United  
52 States or another country.

53 (vii) medical condition or status, including the minor's:

54 (A) mental state;

55 (B) physical state;

56 (C) emotional state; and/or

(D) frequency of their receipt of medical care.  
(viii) sex;  
(ix) gender;  
(x) national origin;  
(xi) age;  
(xii) race;  
(xiii) religion; and  
(xiv) familial demographics, including:  
(A) whether the user is pregnant or expecting a child;  
(B) the demographic makeup of the minor's family;  
(C) the number of people in the minor's family;  
(D) the emotional relationship between family members; and/or  
(E) an immediate or distant relative's personal data as described in  
subparagraphs (i)-(xiii) of this paragraph or their familial demograph-  
ics status as described in clauses(A)-(D) of this subparagraph; and  
(h) "developed or developing" shall mean:  
(i) the interactive computer service provider generating or altering  
visible portions of content or a group of content; or  
(ii) the interactive computer service provider sufficiently altering  
the meaning of content or a group of content generated by third parties  
through the calculated targeting of the specific minor such that a new  
message is deemed to be created by the interactive computer service  
provider.

2. An interactive computer service provider that conducts business in  
the state shall not knowingly or negligently injure a targeted minor  
with promoted content that the interactive computer service provider  
developed.

The interactive computer service provider shall be liable to the  
targeted minor in a civil action for any actual, physical, and emotional  
harm incurred from a violation of this section, as well as punitive  
damages. Such interactive computer services provider shall incur a civil  
penalty of up to one hundred thousand dollars per offense.

3. It is not a defense to this section that the interactive computer  
service provider incorrectly determined the targeted minor's data.

4. Nothing in this section shall be construed as:  
(a) an obligation imposed on an interactive computer service provider  
that adversely affects the rights or freedoms of any persons, such as  
exercising the right of free speech pursuant to the first amendment to  
the United States Constitution;  
(b) an additional or increased liability of an interactive computer  
service provider for anything other than knowingly or negligently  
promoting content that is detrimental to minors who use such interactive  
computer service provider promoting content to non-targeted minors based  
solely on their location and/or time data;  
(c) creating any liability for an interactive computer service provid-  
er for promoting content that is not sufficiently developed to be deemed  
a violation of the provisions of subdivision two of this section; or  
(d) creating any liability for an interactive computer service provid-  
er for promoting dangerous or otherwise injurious developed content in  
another state.

5. In determination of any such violation, the attorney general shall  
be authorized to take proof and make a determination of the relevant  
facts and to issue subpoenas in accordance with the civil practice law  
and rules.

§ 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after  
it shall have become a law.