STATE OF NEW YORK

10709

IN ASSEMBLY

March 26, 2026

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

AN ACT to amend the general business law, in relation to enacting the "protecting our kids from gamification of gambling act"

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

Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "protecting our kids from gamification of gambling act".

§ 2. The general business law is amended by adding a new section 396-kkk to read as follows:

§ 396-kkk. Unlawful online gaming-related gambling for minors. 1. For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(a) "Add-on transaction" means a payment made to the operator of a social gaming platform of either money or an in-game proxy for money, including but not limited to, virtual currency which can be purchased with money that:

(i) unlocks a feature of the product; or

(ii) enhances the entertainment value of the product.

(b) "Loot box" means an add-on transaction to a social gaming platform that through a process of total or partial randomization:

(i) unlocks a feature of the product;

(ii) enhances the entertainment value of the product; or

(iii) allows the user to make one or more additional add-on transactions that such user could not have made without making the first add-on transaction and the content of which is unknown to the user until after such user has made the first add-on transaction.

(c) "Minor" means an individual less than eighteen years of age located in the state of New York.

(d) "Online gaming-related gambling" means activities that occur within video game environments or involve game-related items and currency, including but not limited to:

(i) exchanging real money for random, chance-based rewards in games, such as loot boxes and other add-on transactions; and

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

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(ii) trading or betting using in-game items acquired with real money, such as buying and trading skins or other pay-to-win microtransactions.

(e) "Operator" means any person, business, or other legal entity who operates or provides a social gaming platform.

(f) "Pay-to-win microtransaction" means an add-on transaction to a social gaming platform that from the perspective of reasonable users of such social gaming platform is a game offering a scoring system, a set of goals to achieve, a set of rewards, or a sense of interactive progression through the social gaming platform's content including but not limited to narrative progression that:

(i) eases a user's progression through content otherwise unavailable within the game without the purchase of such transaction; or

(ii) assists a user in accomplishing an achievement within the game that can otherwise be accomplished without the purchase of such transaction; or

(iii) assists a user in receiving an award associated with the game that is otherwise unavailable in association with the game without the purchase of such transaction; or

(iv) permits a user to continue to access content of the game that had previously been accessible to the user but has been made inaccessible after the expiration of a timer or a number of gameplay attempts; or

(v) with respect to an interactive digital entertainment product that, from the perspective of a reasonable user of the product, is a game featuring competition with other users and provides a user with a competitive advantage with respect to the game's competitive aspects over users who do not make such a transaction.

(g) "Skins" means in-game virtual reward systems where users utilize real or virtual currency to purchase loot boxes containing random cosmetic items or skins for characters or weapons. Such skins can range widely in value and can often be sold or traded for real-world use on third-party sites.

(h) "Social gaming platform" means an immersive digital space that integrates gameplay, social connection, and in-game purchasing, allowing users to create customizable avatars and interact with others through real-time collaboration and competition. A social gaming platform is accessible across consoles, computers, mobile devices, tablets, and virtual reality systems.

(i) "User" means a user of a social gaming platform in the state of New York not acting as an operator, or agent or affiliate of such operator, of such platform or any portion thereof.

2. It shall be unlawful for the operator of a social gaming platform to provide a service to a user that allows online gaming-related gambling, unless such operator has reasonably determined that such user is not a minor in accordance with age determination and age assurance regulations promulgated by the attorney general pursuant to this section.

3. Information collected for the purpose of determining a user's age under subdivision two of this section shall not be used for any purpose other than age determination and shall be deleted immediately after an attempt to determine a user's age, except where necessary for compliance with any applicable provisions of New York state or federal law or regulation.

4. Any violation of this section shall constitute an unlawful deceptive act or practice under section three hundred forty-nine of this chapter and may be enforced by the attorney general in a civil action in the name and on behalf of the people of the state of New York.

5. The attorney general shall maintain a website to receive complaints, information and/or referrals from members of the public concerning a social gaming platform's or operator's alleged compliance or non-compliance with the provisions of this section.

6. The attorney general shall promulgate regulations as necessary to effectuate the provisions of this section. Such regulations may reference or rely upon existing regulations promulgated by the attorney general regarding age determination or age assurance.

§ 3. Severability. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part of this act shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered. It is hereby declared to be the intent of the legislature that this act would have been enacted even if such invalid provisions had not been included herein.

§ 4. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.