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## **OLR Bill Analysis**

### **sSB 208**

#### ***AN ACT CONCERNING SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONSENT.***

#### **SUMMARY**

This bill raises, from 13 to 16, the age up to which a parent's (i.e., legal guardian's) consent is required for social media access. The bill does so by changing the definition of "child" to mean an individual under age 16, for the purposes of the federal Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) in Connecticut (see BACKGROUND).

Starting on October 1, 2022, within 10 days of receiving a parent's request, the bill requires persons with commercial websites or online services directed to children ("operators"), to (1) delete the child's account, (2) stop using or maintaining it in retrievable form, or (3) stop collecting the child's personal information (i.e., identifiable information about an individual collected online, such as name, address, telephone and Social Security numbers, and photograph).

It also requires operators to provide a reasonable, accessible, and verifiable way for parents to make this request.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2022

#### **OPERATOR**

Under the bill, "operator" means any person who (1) operates an Internet website or online service and who collects or maintains personal information from or about the users of, or visitors to, the website or online service, or on whose behalf the information is collected or maintained, or (2) offers products or services for sale through that website or online service.

Personal information is collected or maintained on behalf of an operator when (1) it is collected or maintained by an operator's agent or

service provider or (2) the operator benefits by allowing another person to collect personal information directly from the website or online service's users.

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA)***

The federal Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA) regulates the online collection of personal information from children under 13. It applies to commercial websites and online services directed at children and other commercial websites or online services that have actual knowledge that they are collecting information from children.

Operators must post a link to their privacy policies on their homepages and on each page where they collect personal information from children. The act generally requires a parent's consent for a website to collect personal information from children. Exceptions include online activities such as contests, newsletters, and homework help (some of these require parental notification if there is continued contact between the child and the website) (15 USC § 6501 et seq.).

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Committee on Children

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 13    Nay 0    (03/15/2022)