LYN23452 D2J S.L.C.

Blackburn_ Jub

AM	TENDMENT NO Calendar No	
Pu	Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.	
IN	THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—118th Cong., 1st Sess.	
	S. 1409	
	To protect the safety of children on the internet.	
R	eferred to the Committee on and ordered to be printed	
	Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed	
A	MENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE intended to be proposed by	
Viz	:	
1	Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the fol-	
2	lowing:	
3	SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.	
4	(a) Short Title.—This Act may be cited as the	
5	"Kids Online Safety Act".	
6	(b) Table of Contents.—The table of contents for	
7	this Act is as follows:	
	Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents. Sec. 2. Definitions. Sec. 3. Duty of care. Sec. 4. Safeguards for minors. Sec. 5. Disclosure. Sec. 6. Transparency. Sec. 7. Independent research on social media and minors. Sec. 8. Market research. Sec. 9. Age verification study and report. Sec. 10. Guidance. Sec. 11. Enforcement. Sec. 12. Kids online safety council.	

Sec. 13. Effective date.

Sec. 15. Severability.

Sec. 14. Rules of construction and other matters.

1	SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.
2	In this Act:
3	(1) CHILD.—The term "child" means an indi-
4	vidual who is under the age of 13.
5	(2) COMPULSIVE USAGE.—The term "compul-
6	sive usage" means any response stimulated by exter-
7	nal factors that causes an individual to engage in re-
8	petitive behavior reasonably likely to cause psycho-
9	logical distress, loss of control, anxiety, or depres
10	sion.
11	(3) COVERED PLATFORM.—
12	(A) In GENERAL.—The term "covered
13	platform" means an online platform, online
14	video game, messaging application, or video
15	streaming service that connects to the internet
16	and that is used, or is reasonably likely to be
17	used, by a minor.
18	(B) EXCEPTIONS.—The term "covered
19	platform" does not include—
20	(i) an entity acting in its capacity as
21	a provider of—
22	(I) a common carrier service sub-
23	ject to the Communications Act of
24	1934 (47 U.S.C. 151 et seg.) and all

1	Acts amendatory thereof and supple-
2	mentary thereto;
3	(II) a broadband internet access
4	service (as such term is defined for
5	purposes of section 8.1(b) of title 47,
6.	Code of Federal Regulations, or any
7	successor regulation);
8	(III) an email service;
9	(IV) a teleconferencing or video
10	conferencing service that allows recep-
11	tion and transmission of audio and
12	video signals for real-time communica-
13	tion, provided that—
14	(aa) is not an online plat-
15	form, including a social media
16	service or social network; and
17	(bb) the real-time commu-
18	nication is initiated by using a
19	unique link or identifier to
20	faciliate access; or
21	(V) a wireless messaging service
22	that is not a component of, or linked
23	to, an online platform, and where the
24	predominant or exclusive function of
25	the service is direct messaging con-

1	sisting of text, photos, or videos that
2	are sent between devices by electronic
3	means where messages are shared
4	only between the sender and the re-
5	cipient, are only visible to the sender
6	and the recipient, and are not posted
7	publicly;
8	(ii) an organization not organized to
9	carry on business for its own profit or that
10	of its members;
11	(iii) any public or private preschool,
12	elementary, or secondary school, or any in-
13	stitution of vocational, professional, or
14	higher education;
15	(iv) a library (as defined in section
16	213(1) of the Library Services and Tech-
17	nology Act (20 U.S.C. 9122(1)));
18	(v) a news website or app where—
19	(I) the inclusion of video content
20	on the website or app is related to the
21	website or app's own gathering, re-
22	porting, or publishing of news content;
23	and
24	(II) the website or app is not
25	otherwise an online platform; or

1	(vi) a product or service that pri-
2	marily functions as business-to-business
3	software.
4	(4) GEOLOCATION.—The term "geolocation"
5	means information sufficient to identify street name
6	and name of a city or town.
7	(5) Individual-specific advertising to mi-
8	NORS.—
9	(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "individual-
10	specific advertising to minors" means adver-
11	tising or any other effort to market a product
12	or service that is directed to a specific minor or
13	a device that is linked or reasonably linkable to
14	a minor—
15	(i) based on—
16	(I) the personal data of—
17	(aa) the minor; or
18	(bb) a group of minors who
19	are similar in gender, age, in-
20	come level, race, or ethnicity to
21	the specific individual to whom
22	the product or service is mar-
23	keted;
24	(II) psychological profiling of a
25	minor or group of minors; or

1	(III) a unique identifier of the
2	device; or
3	(ii) as a result of use by the minor,
4	access by any device of the minor, or use
5	by a group of minors who are similar to
6	the specific minor, of more than a single—
7	(I) website;
8	(II) online service;
9	(III) online application;
10	(IV) mobile application; or
11	(V) connected device
12	(B) Exclusions.—The term "individual-
13	specific advertising to minors" shall not in-
14	clude—
15	(i) advertising or marketing to an in-
16	dividual or the device of an individual in
17	response to the individual's specific request
18	for information or feedback, such as a mi-
19	nor's current search query;
20	(ii) contextual advertising, such as
21	when an advertisement is displayed based
22	on the content of the covered platform on
23	which the advertisement appears and does
24	not vary based on personal information re-
25	lated to the viewer;

1	(III) processing personal information
2	solely for measuring or reporting adver-
3	tising or content performance, reach, or
4	frequency, including independent measure
5	ment;
6	(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
7	subparagraph (A) shall be construed to prohibit
8	a covered platform with actual knowledge or
9	knowledge fairly implied on the basis of objec-
10	tive circumstances that an individual is under
11	the age of 17 from delivering advertising or
12	marketing that is age-appropriate for the indi-
13	vidual involved and intended for a child or teen
14	audience (as applicable), so long as the covered
15	platform does not use any personal data other
16	than whether the user is under the age of 17
17	to deliver such advertising or marketing.
18	(6) Know or knows.—The term "know" or
19	"knows" means to have actual knowledge or knowl-
20	edge fairly implied on the basis of objective cir-
21	cumstances.
22	(7) MENTAL HEALTH DISORDER.—The term
23	"mental health disorder" has the meaning given the
24	term "mental disorder" in the Diagnostic and Sta-

I	tistical Manual of Mental Health Disorders, 5th Edi-
2	tion (or the most current successor edition).
3	(8) MINOR.—The term "minor" means an indi-
4	vidual who is under the age of 17.
5	(9) Online Platform.—The term "online
6	platform" means any public-facing website, online
7	service, online application, or mobile application that
8	predominantly provides a community forum for user
9	generated content, such as sharing videos, images,
10	games, audio files, or other content, including a so-
11	cial media service, social network, or virtual reality
12	environment.
13	(10) ONLINE VIDEO GAME.—The term "online
14	video game" means a video game, including an edu-
15	cational video game, that connects to the internet
16	and that—
17	(A) allows a user to—
18	(i) create and upload content;
19	(ii) engage in microtransactions with-
20	in the game; or
21	(iii) communicate with other users; or
22	(B) incorporates minor-specific advertising.
23	(11) PARENT.—The term "parent" includes—
24	(A) a natural parent;
25	(B) a legal guardian; or

1	(C) an individual with legal custody over a
2	minor.
3	(12) PERSONAL DATA.—The term "personal
4	data" means information that identifies or is linked
5	or reasonably linkable to a particular minor, includ-
6	ing a consumer device identifier that is linked or
7	reasonably linkable to a minor.
8	(13) Personalized recommendation sys-
9	TEM.—The term "personalized recommendation sys-
10	tem" means a fully or partially automated system
11	used to suggest, promote, or rank content, including
12.	other users or posts, based on the personal data of
13	users.
[4	(14) SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE.—The
15	term "sexual exploitation and abuse" means any of
6	the following:
17	(A) Coercion and enticement, as described
18	in section 2422 of title 18, United States Code.
9	(B) Child sexual abuse material, as de-
20	scribed in sections 2251, 2252, 2252A, and
21	2260 of title 18, United States Code.
22	(C) Trafficking for the production of im-
23	ages, as described in section 2251A of title 18,
24	United States Code.

1.	(D) Sex trafficking of children, as de-
2	scribed in section 1591 of title 18, United
3	States Code.
4	SEC. 3. DUTY OF CARE.
5	(a) PREVENTION OF HARM TO MINORS.—A covered
6	platform shall take reasonable measures in the design and
7	operation of any product, service, or feature that the cov-
8	ered platform knows is used by minors to prevent and
9	mitigate the following harms to minors:
10	(1) Consistent with evidence-informed medica
11	information, the following mental health disorders
12	anxiety, depression, eating disorders, substance use
13	disorders, and suicidal behaviors.
14	(2) Patterns of use that indicate or encourage
15	addiction-like behaviors.
16	(3) Physical violence, online bullying, and har-
17	assment of the minor.
18	(4) Sexual exploitation and abuse.
19	(5) Promotion and marketing of narcotic drugs
20	(as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Sub-
21	stances Act (21 U.S.C. 802)), tobacco products
22	gambling, or alcohol.
23	(6) Predatory, unfair, or deceptive marketing
24	practices, or other financial harms.

1	(b) LIMITATION.—Nothing in subsection (a) shall be
2	construed to require a covered platform to prevent or pre-
3	clude—
4	(1) any minor from deliberately and independ-
5	ently searching for, or specifically requesting, con-
6	tent; or
7	(2) the covered platform or individuals on the
8	platform from providing resources for the prevention
9	or mitigation of the harms described in subsection
10	(a), including evidence-informed information and
11	clinical resources.
12	SEC. 4. SAFEGUARDS FOR MINORS.
13	(a) Safeguards for Minors.—
14	(1) SAFEGUARDS.—A covered platform shall
15	provide an individual that the covered platform
16	knows is a minor with readily-accessible and easy-to-
17	use safeguards to, as applicable—
18	(A) limit the ability of other individuals to
19	communicate with the minor;
20	(B) prevent other users, whether registered
21	or not, from viewing the minor's personal data
22	collected by or shared on the covered platform,
23	in particular restricting public access to per-
24	sonal data;

1	(C) limit features that increase, sustain, or
2	extend use of the covered platform by the
3	minor, such as automatic playing of media, re-
4	wards for time spent on the platform, notifica-
5	tions, and other features that result in compul-
6	sive usage of the covered platform by the minor;
7	(D) control personalized recommendation
8	systems, including the ability for a minor to
9	have at least 1 of the following options—
10	(i) opt out of such personalized rec-
11	ommendation systems, while still allowing
12	the display of content based on a chrono-
13	logical format; or
14	(ii) limit types or categories of rec-
15	ommendations from such systems; and
16	(E) restrict the sharing of the geologation
17	of the minor to other users on the platform and
18	provide notice regarding the tracking of the mi-
19	nor's geologation.
20	(2) Options.—A covered platform shall provide
21	an individual that the covered platform knows is a
22	minor with readily-accessible and easy-to-use options
23	to—

1	(A) delete the minor's account and delete
2	any personal data collected from, or shared by
3	the minor on the covered platform; or
4	(B) limit the amount of time spent by the
5	minor on the covered platform.
6	(3) Default safeguard settings for mi-
7	NORS.—A covered platform shall provide that, in the
8	case of a user that the platform knows is a minor
9	the default setting for any safeguard described
10	under paragraph (1) shall be the option available or
11	the platform that provides the most protective level
12	of control that is offered by the platform over pri-
13	vacy and safety for that user.
14	(b) PARENTAL TOOLS.—
15	(1) Tools.—A covered platform shall provide
16	readily-accessible and easy-to-use settings for par-
17	ents to support an individual that the platform
18	knows is a minor with respect to the individual's use
19	of the platform.
20	(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The parental tools pro-
21	vided by a covered platform shall include—
22	(A) the ability to manage a minor's privacy
23	and account settings, including the safeguards
24	and options established under subsection (a), in
25	a manner that allows parents to—

1	(i) view the privacy and account set-
2	tings; and
3	(ii) in the case of a user that the plat-
4	form knows is a child, change and control
5	the privacy and account settings;
6	(B) the ability to restrict purchases and fi-
7	nancial transactions by the minor, where appli-
8	cable; and
9	(C) the ability to view metrics of total time
10	spent on the platform and restrict time spent
1,1	on the covered platform by the minor.
12	(3) NOTICE TO MINORS.—A covered platform
13	shall provide clear and conspicuous notice to an indi-
14	vidual that the platform knows is a minor when tools
15	described in this subsection are in effect and what
16	settings or controls have been applied.
17	(4) Default tools.—A covered platform shall
18	provide that, in the case of a user that the platform
19	knows is a child, the tools described in this sub-
20	section shall be enabled by default.
21	(c) REPORTING MECHANISM.—
22	(1) REPORTS SUBMITTED BY PARENTS, MI-
23	NORS, AND SCHOOLS.—A covered platform shall pro-
24	vide—

1	(A) a readily-accessible and easy-to-use
2	means to submit reports to the covered plat-
3	form of harms to a minor;
4.	(B) an electronic point of contact specific
5	to matters involving harms to a minor; and
6	(C) confirmation of the receipt of such a
7	report and a means to track a submitted report.
8	(2) TIMING.—A covered platform shall establish
9	an internal process to receive and substantively re-
10	spond to such reports in a reasonable and timely
11	manner, but in no case later than—
12	(A) 10 days after the receipt of a report,
13	if, for the most recent calendar year, the plat-
14	form averaged more than 10,000,000 active
15	users on a monthly basis in the United States;
16	(B) 21 days after the receipt of a report,
17	if, for the most recent calendar year, the plat-
18	form averaged less than 10,000,000 active
19	users on a monthly basis in the United States;
20	and
21	(C) notwithstanding subparagraphs (A)
22	and (B), if the report involves an imminent
23	threat to the safety of a minor, as promptly as
24	needed to address the reported threat to safety.

1	(d) Advertising of Illegal Products.—A cov-
2	ered platform shall not facilitate the advertising of nar-
3	cotic drugs (as defined in section 102 of the Controlled
4	Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802)), tobacco products, gam-
5	bling, or alcohol to an individual that the covered platform
6	knows is a minor.
7	(e) APPLICATION.—
8	(1) Accessibility.—With respect to safe
9	guards and parental controls described under sub-
10	sections (a) and (b), a covered platform shall pro-
11	vide—
12	(A) information and control options in a
13	clear and conspicuous manner that takes into
14	consideration the differing ages, capacities, and
15	developmental needs of the minors most likely
6	to access the covered platform and does not en-
17	courage minors or parents to weaken or disable
18	safeguards or parental controls;
19	(B) readily-accessible and easy-to-use con-
20	trols to enable or disable safeguards or parental
21	controls, as appropriate; and
22	(C) information and control options in the
23	same language, form, and manner as the cov-
24	ered platform provides the product or service
25	used by minors and their parents.

1	(2) DARK PATTERNS PROHIBITION.—It shall be
2	unlawful for any covered platform to design, modify,
3	or manipulate a user interface of a covered platform
4	with the purpose or substantial effect of subverting
5	or impairing user autonomy, decision-making, or
6	choice with respect to safeguards or parental con-
7	trols required under this section.
8	(3) Rules of construction.—Nothing in
9	this section shall be construed to—
10	(A) prevent a covered platform from taking
11	reasonable measures to—
12	(i) block, detect, or prevent the dis-
13	tribution of unlawful, obscene, or other
14	harmful material to minors as described in
15	section 3(a); or
16	(ii) block or filter spam, prevent
17	criminal activity, or protect the security of
18	a platform or service;
19	(B) require the disclosure of a minor's
20	browsing behavior, search history, messages,
21	contact list, or other content or metadata of
22	their communications;
23	(C) prevent a covered platform from using
24	a personalized recommendation system to dis-

1	play content to a minor if the system only uses
2	information on—
3	(i) the language spoken by the minor
4	(ii) the geolocation of the minor; or
5	(iii) the minor's age; or
6	(D) prohibit a covered platform from inte-
7	grating its products or service with controls
8	from third-party systems, including operating
9	systems or gaming consoles, to meet the re-
10	quirements imposed under subsections (a) and
11	(b) relating to safeguards for minors and tools
12	for parents, provided that—
13	(i) the controls meet such require-
14	ments; and
15	(ii) the minor or parent is provided
16	sufficient notice of the integration and use
7	of the controls.
18	SEC. 5. DISCLOSURE.
9	(a) NOTICE.—
20	(1) REGISTRATION OR PURCHASE.—Prior to
21	registration or purchase of a covered platform by an
22	individual that the platform knows is a minor, the
23	platform shall provide clear, conspicuous, and easy-
24	to-understand—

1	(A) notice of the policies and practices of
2	the covered platform with respect to personal
3	data and safeguards for minors;
4	(B) information about how to access the
5	safeguards and parental tools required under
6	section 4; and
7	(C) notice about whether the covered plat-
8	form uses or makes available to minors a prod-
9	uct, service, or feature, including any personal-
10	ized recommendation system, that poses any
11	heightened risk of harm to minors.
12	(2) NOTIFICATION.—
13	(A) NOTICE AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT.—In
14	the case of an individual that a covered plat-
15	form knows is a child, the platform shall addi-
16	tionally provide information about the parental
17	tools and safeguards required under section 4
18	to a parent of the child and obtain verifiable
19	parental consent (as defined in section 1302(9)
20	of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act
21	(15 U.S.C. 6501(9))) from the parent prior to
22	the inital use of the covered platform by the
23	child.
24	(B) REASONABLE EFFORT.—A covered
25	platform shall be deemed to have satisfied the

19

20

21

1 requirement described in subparagraph (A) if 2 the covered platform is in compliance with the 3 requirements of the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (15 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.) to use 4 reasonable efforts (taking into consideration 5 available technology) to provide a parent with 6 the information described in subparagraph (A) 7 8 and to obtain verifiable parental consent as re-9 quired. 10 (3) CONSOLIDATED NOTICES.—A covered plat-11 form may consolidate the process for providing in-12 formation under this subsection and obtaining 13 verifiable parental consent or the consent of the 14 minor involved (as applicable) as required under this 15 subsection with its obligations to provide relevant notice and obtain verifiable parental consent under 16 17 the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (15) 18 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.).

> (4) GUIDANCE.—The Federal Trade Commission may issue guidance to assist covered platforms in complying with the requirements of this section.

22 (b) Personalized Recommendation System.—A 23 covered platform that operates a personalized recommendation system shall set out in its terms and condi-

1	tions, in a clear, conspicuous, and easy-to-understand
2	manner—
3	(1) an overview of how such personalized rec-
4	ommendation system is used by the covered platform
5	to provide information to users of the platform who
6	are minors, including how such systems use the per-
7	sonal data of minors; and
8	(2) information about options for minors or
9	their parents to opt out of or control the personal-
10	ized recommendation system (as applicable).
11	(e) Advertising and Marketing Information
12	AND LABELS.—
13	(1) Information and labels.—A covered
14	platform that facilitates advertising aimed at users
15	that the platform knows are minors shall provide
16	clear, conspicuous, and easy-to-understand informa-
17	tion and labels to minors on advertisements regard-
18	ing-
19	(A) the name of the product, service, or
20	brand and the subject matter of an advertise-
21	ment;
22	(B) if the covered platform engages in in-
23	dividual-specific advertising to minors, why a
24	particular advertisement is directed to a specific
25	minor, including material information about

1	how the minor's personal data is used to direct
2	the advertisement to the minor; and
3	(C) whether particular media displayed to
4	the minor is an advertisement or marketing ma-
5	terial, including disclosure of endorsements of
6	products, services, or brands made for commer-
7	cial consideration by other users of the plat-
8	form.
9	(2) GUIDANCE.—The Federal Trade Commis-
10	sion may issue guidance to assist covered platforms
11	in complying with the requirements of this sub-
12	section, including guidance about the minimum level
13	of information and labels for the disclosures required
14	under paragraph (1).
15	(d) RESOURCES FOR PARENTS AND MINORS.—A cov-
16	ered platform shall provide to minors and parents clear,
17	conspicuous, easy-to-understand, and comprehensive infor-
18	mation in a prominent location regarding—
19	(1) its policies and practices with respect to
20	personal data and safeguards for minors; and
21	(2) how to access the safeguards and tools re-
22	quired under section 4.
23	(e) RESOURCES IN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGES.—A
24	covered platform shall ensure, to the extent practicable,
25	that the disclosures required by this section are made

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

- available in the same language, form, and manner as the covered platform provides any product or service used by minors and their parents.

 SEC. 6. TRANSPARENCY.

 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (b), not less frequently than once a year, a covered platform shall issue a public report describing the reasonably foreseeable risks of material harms to minors and assessing the prevention and mitigation measures taken to address such risk based
- 12 (b) SCOPE OF APPLICATION.—The requirements of 13 this section shall apply to a covered platform if—

reasonable inspection of the covered platform.

on an independent, third-party audit conducted through

- (1) for the most recent calendar year, the platform averaged more than 10,000,000 active users on a monthly basis in the United States; and
- (2) the platform predominantly provides a community forum for user-generated content and discussion, including sharing videos, images, games, audio files, discussion in a virtual setting, or other content, such as acting as a social media platform, virtual reality environment, or a social network service.
- 23 (c) CONTENT.—

1	(1) Transparency.—The public reports re-
2	quired of a covered platform under this section shall
3	include—
4	(A) an assessment of the extent to which
5	the platform is likely to be accessed by minors;
6	(B) a description of the commercial inter-
7	ests of the covered platform in use by minors;
8	(C) an accounting, based on the data held
9.	by the covered platform, of—
10	(i) the number of individuals using
11	the covered platform reasonably believed to
12	be minors in the United States; and
13	(ii) the median and mean amounts of
14	time spent on the platform by minors in
15	the United States who have accessed the
16	platform during the reporting year on a
17	daily, weekly, and monthly basis;
18	(D) an accounting of total reports received
19	regarding, and the prevalence (which can be
20	based on scientifically valid sampling methods
21	using the content available to the covered plat-
22	form in the normal course of business) of con-
23	tent related to, the harms described in section
24	3(a), disaggregated by category of harm; and

1	(E) a description of any material breaches
2	of parental tools or assurances regarding mi-
3	nors, representations regarding the use of the
4	personal data of minors, and other matters re-
5	garding non-compliance.
6	(2) Reasonably foreseeable risk of harm
7	TO MINORS.—The public reports required of a cov-
8	ered platform under this section shall include—
9	(A) an assessment of the reasonably fore-
10	seeable risk of harms to minors posed by the
11	covered platform, including identifying any
12	other physical, mental, developmental, or finan-
13	cial harms in addition to those described in sec-
14	tion 3(a);
15	(B) an assessment of how personalized rec-
16	ommendation systems and individual-specific
17	advertising to minors can contribute to harms
18	to minors;
9	(C) a description of whether and how the
20	covered platform uses system design features
21	that increase, sustain, or extend use of a prod-
22	uct or service by a minor, such as automatic
23	playing of media, rewards for time spent, and
24	notifications;

1	(D) a description of whether, how, and for
2	what purpose the platform collects or processes
3	categories of personal data that may cause rea-
4	sonably foreseeable risk of harms to minors;
5	(E) an evaluation of the efficacy of safe-
6	guards for minors under section 4, and any
7	issues in delivering such safeguards and the as-
8	sociated parental tools; and
9	(F) an evaluation of any other relevant
10	matters of public concern over risk of harms to
11	minors.
12	(3) MITIGATION.—The public reports required
13	of a covered platform under this section shall in-
14	clude—
15	(A) a description of the safeguards and pa-
16	rental tools available to minors and parents on
17	the covered platform;
18	(B) a description of interventions by the
19	covered platform when it had or has reason to
20	believe that harms to minors could occur;
21	(C) a description of the prevention and
22	mitigation measures intended to be taken in re-
23	sponse to the known and emerging risks identi-
24	fied in its assessment of system risks, including
25	steps taken to—

1	(i) prevent harms to minors, including
2	adapting or removing system design fea-
3	tures or addressing through parental con-
4	trols;
5	(ii) provide the most protective level of
6	control over privacy and safety by default
7	and
8	(iii) adapt recommendation systems to
9	mitigate reasonably foreseeable risk of
10	harms to minors, as described in section
11	3(a);
12	(D) a description of internal processes for
13	handling reports and automated detection
14	mechanisms for harms to minors, including the
15	rate, timeliness, and effectiveness of responses
16	under the requirement of section 4(c);
17	(E) the status of implementing prevention
18	and mitigation measures identified in prior as-
19	sessments; and
20	(F) a description of the additional meas-
21	ures to be taken by the covered platform to ad-
22	dress the circumvention of safeguards for mi-
23	nors and parental tools.

1	(d) REASONABLE INSPECTION.—In conducting an in-
2	spection of the systemic risks of harm to minors under
3	this section, an independent, third-party auditor shall-
4	(1) take into consideration the function of per-
5	sonalized recommendation systems;
6	(2) consult parents and youth experts, including
7	youth and families with relevant past or current ex-
8	perience, public health and mental health nonprofit
9	organizations, health and development organizations,
10	and civil society with respect to the prevention of
11	harms to minors;
12	(3) conduct research based on experiences of
13	minors that use the covered platform, including re-
14	ports under section 4(c) and information provided by
15	law enforcement;
16	(4) take account of research, including research
17	regarding system design features, marketing, or
18	product integrity, industry best practices, or outside
19	research; and
20	(5) consider indicia or inferences of age of
21	users, in addition to any self-declared information
22	about the age of individuals.
23	(e) Cooperation With Independent, Third-
24	PARTY AUDIT.—To facilitate the report required by sub-
25	section (c), a covered platform shall—

1	(1) provide or otherwise make available to the
2	independent third-party conducting the audit all in-
3	formation and material in its possession, custody, or
4	control that is relevant to the audit;
5	(2) provide or otherwise make available to the
6	independent third-party conducting the audit access
7	to all network, systems, and assets relevant to the
8	audit; and
9	(3) disclose all relevant facts to the independent
10	third-party conducting the audit, and not misrepre-
11	sent in any manner, expressly or by implication, any
12	relevant fact.
13	(f) Privacy Safeguards.—
14	(1) IN GENERAL.—In issuing the public reports
15	required under this section, a covered platform shall
16	take steps to safeguard the privacy of its users, in-
17	cluding ensuring that data is presented in a de-iden-
18	tified, aggregated format such that it is reasonably
19	impossible for the data to be linked back to any indi-
20	vidual user.
21	(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—This section
22	shall not be construed to require the disclosure of in-
23	formation that will lead to material vulnerabilities
24	for the privacy of users or the security of a covered

1	platform's service or create a significant risk of the
2	violation of Federal or State law.
3	(3) Definition of de-identified.—As used
4	in this subsection, the term "de-identified" means
5	data that does not identify and is not linked or rea-
6	sonably linkable to a device that is linked or reason-
7	ably linkable to an individual, regardless of whether
8	the information is aggregated
9	(g) LOCATION.—The public reports required under
0	this section should be posted by a covered platform on an
1	easy to find location on a publicly-available website.
2	SEC. 7. INDEPENDENT RESEARCH ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND
3	MINORS.
13 14	MINORS. (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:
4	(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:
14 15	(a) Definitions.—In this section:(1) Commission.—The term "Commission"
14	(a) Definitions.—In this section:(1) Commission.—The term "Commission" means the Federal Trade Commission.
14 15 16	 (a) Definitions.—In this section: (1) Commission.—The term "Commission" means the Federal Trade Commission. (2) National Academy.—The term "National
14 15 16 17	 (a) Definitions.—In this section: (1) Commission.—The term "Commission" means the Federal Trade Commission. (2) National Academy.—The term "National Academy" means the National Academy of Sciences.
14 15 16 17 18	 (a) Definitions.—In this section: (1) Commission.—The term "Commission" means the Federal Trade Commission. (2) National academy.—The term "National Academy" means the National Academy of Sciences. (3) Secretary.—The term "Secretary" means
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	 (a) Definitions.—In this section: (1) Commission.—The term "Commission" means the Federal Trade Commission. (2) National academy.—The term "National Academy" means the National Academy of Sciences. (3) Secretary.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	 (a) Definitions.—In this section: (1) Commission.—The term "Commission" means the Federal Trade Commission. (2) National academy.—The term "National Academy" means the National Academy of Sciences. (3) Secretary.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Health and Human Services. (b) Research on Social Media Harms.—Not
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	 (a) Definitions.—In this section: (1) Commission.—The term "Commission" means the Federal Trade Commission. (2) National Academy.—The term "National Academy" means the National Academy of Sciences. (3) Secretary.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Health and Human Services. (b) Research on Social Media Harms.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this

- 1 prehensive studies and reports on the risk of harms to mi-
- 2 nors by use of social media and other online platforms.
- 3 (c) MATTERS TO BE ADDRESSED.—In contracting
- 4 with the National Academy, the Commission, in consulta-
- 5 tion with the Secretary, shall seek to commission separate
- 6 studies and reports, using the Commission's authority
- 7 under section 6(b) of the Federal Trade Commission Act
- 8 (15 U.S.C. 46(b)), on the relationship between social
- 9 media and other online platforms as defined in this Act
- 10 on the following matters:
- 11 (1) Anxiety, depression, eating disorders, and
- 12 suicidal behaviors.
- 13 (2) Substance use disorders and the use of nar-
- 14 cotic drugs, tobacco products, gambling, or alcohol
- by minors.
- 16 (3) Sexual exploitation and abuse.
- 17 (4) Addiction-like use of social media and de-
- sign factors that lead to unhealthy and harmful
- 19 overuse of social media.
- 20 (d) Additional Study.—Not earlier than 4 years
- 21 after enactment, the Commission shall seek to enter into
- 22 a contract with the National Academy under which the
- 23 National Academy shall conduct an additional study and
- 24 report covering the matters described in subsection (c) for

- 1 the purposes of providing additional information, consid-
- 2 ering new research, and other matters.
- 3 (e) CONTENT OF REPORTS.— The comprehensive
- 4 studies and reports conducted pursuant to this section
- 5 shall seek to evaluate impacts and advance understanding,
- 6 knowledge, and remedies regarding the harms to minors
- 7 posed by social media and other online platforms, and may
- 8 include recommendations related to public policy.
- 9 (f) ACTIVE STUDIES.—If the National Academy is
- 10 engaged in any active studies on the matters described in
- 11 subsection (c) at the time that it enters into a contract
- 12 with the Commission to conduct a study under this sec-
- 13 tion, it may base the study to be conducted under this
- 14 section on the active study, so long as it otherwise incor-
- 15 porates the requirements of this section.
- 16 (g) COLLABORATION.—In designing and conducting
- 17 the studies under this section, the Commission, the Sec-
- 18 retary, and the National Academy shall consult with the
- 19 Surgeon General and the Kids Online Safety Council.
- 20 (h) ACCESS TO DATA.—
- 21 (1) Fact-finding authority.—The Commis-
- sion may issue orders to gather and compile infor-
- 23 mation and data necessary to conduct the studies re-
- 24 quired under this section.

1	(2) Scope.—The Commission may issue orders
2	under section 6(b) of the Federal Trade Commission
3	Act (15 U.S.C. 46(b)) to no more than 5 covered
4	platforms per study under this section.
5	(3) CONFIDENTIAL ACCESS.—Pursuant to sub-
6	sections (b) and (f) of section 6 of the Federal
7	Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 46), the Commis-
8	sion shall enter in agreements with the National
9	Academy to share appropriate information received
10	from a covered platform pursuant to an order under
11	such subsection (b) for a comprehensive study under
12	this section in a confidential and secure manner, and
13	to prohibit the disclosure or sharing of such infor-
14	mation by the National Academy.
15	SEC. 8. MARKET RESEARCH.
16	(a) Market Research by Covered Platforms.—
17	The Federal Trade Commission, in consultation with the
18	Secretary of Commerce, shall issue guidance for covered
19	platforms seeking to conduct market- and product-focused
20	research on minors. Such guidance shall include—
21	(1) a standard consent form that provides mi-
22	nors and their parents a clear, conspicuous, and
23	easy-to-understand explanation of the scope and pur-
24	pose of the research to be conducted, and provides
25	an opportunity for informed consent; and

1	(2) recommendations for research practices for
2	studies that may include minors, disaggregated by
3	the age ranges of 0-5, 6-9, 10-12, and 13-16.
4	(b) TIMING.—The Federal Trade Commission shall
5	issue such guidance not later than 18 months after the
6	date of enactment of this Act. In doing so, they shall seek
7	input from members of the public and the representatives
8	of the Kids Online Safety Council established under sec-
9	tion 12.
10	SEC. 9. AGE VERIFICATION STUDY AND REPORT.
11	(a) Study.—The Director of the National Institute
12	of Standards and Technology, in coordination with the
13	Federal Communications Commission, Federal Trade
14	Commission, and the Secretary of Commerce, shall con-
15	duct a study evaluating the most technologically feasible
16	methods and options for developing systems to verify age
17	at the device or operating system level.
18	(b) CONTENTS.—Such study shall consider —
19	(1) the benefits of creating a device or oper-
20	ating system level age verification system;
21	(2) what information may need to be collected
22	to create this type of age verification system;
23	(3) the accuracy of such systems and their im-
24	pact or steps to improve accessibility, including for
25	individuals with disabilities;

1	(4) how such a system or systems could verify
2	age while mitigating risks to user privacy and data
3	security and safeguarding minors' personal data,
4	emphasizing minimizing the amount of data col-
5	lected and processed by covered platforms and age
6	verification providers for such a system; and
7	(5) the technical feasibility, including the need
8	for potential hardware and software changes, includ-
9	ing for devices currently in commerce and owned by
10	consumers.
11	(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
12	of enactment of this Act, the agencies described in sub-
13	section (a) shall submit a report containing the results of
14	the study conducted under such subsection to the Com-
15	mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
16	Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of
17	the House of Representatives.
18	SEC. 10. GUIDANCE.
19	(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after
20	the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Trade Com-
21	mission, in consultation with the Kids Online Safety Coun-
22	cil established under section 12, shall issue guidance to—
23	(1) provide information and examples for cov-
24	ered platforms and auditors regarding—

1	(A) identifying features that are used to
2	increase, sustain, or extend use of the covered
3	platform by a minor;
4	(B) safeguarding minors against the pos-
5	sible misuse of parental tools;
6	(C) best practices in providing minors and
7	parents the most protective level of control over
8	privacy and safety;
9	(D) using indicia or inferences of age of
0	users for assessing use of the covered platform
1	by minors;
2	(E) methods for evaluating the efficacy of
13	safeguards; and
14	(F) providing additional control options
L 5	that allow parents to address the harms de-
16	scribed in section 3(a); and
17	(2) outline conduct that does not have the pur-
18	pose or substantial effect of subverting or impairing
19	user autonomy, decision-making, or choice, or of
20	causing, increasing, or encouraging compulsive usage
21	for a minor, such as—
22	(A) de minimis user interface changes de
23	rived from testing consumer preferences, includ-
24	ing different styles, layouts, or text, where such
25	changes are not done with the purpose of weak

1	ening or disabling safeguards or parental con-
2	trols;
3	(B) algorithms or data outputs outside the
4	control of a covered platform; and
5	(C) establishing default settings that pro-
6	vide enhanced privacy protection to users or
7	otherwise enhance their autonomy and decision-
8	making ability.
9	(b) GUIDANCE TO SCHOOLS.—Not later than 18
10	months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
11	retary of Education, in consultation with the Federal
12	Trade Commission and the Kids Online Safety Council es-
13	tablished under section 12, shall issue guidance to assist
14	to assist elementary and secondary schools in using the
15	notice, safeguards and tools provided under this Act and
16	providing information on online safety for students and
17	teachers.
18	(c) GUIDANCE ON KNOWLEDGE STANDARD.—Not
19	later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this
20	Act, the Federal Trade Commission shall issue guidance
21	to provide information, including best practices and exam-
22	ples, for covered platforms to understand the Commis-
23	sion's determination of whether a covered platform "had
24	knowledge fairly implied on the basis of objective cir-
25	cumstances" for purposes of this Act.

1	(d) Limitation on Federal Trade Commission
2	GUIDANCE.—
3	(1) EFFECT OF GUIDANCE.—No guidance
4	issued by the Federal Trade Commission with re-
5	spect to this Act shall—
6	(A) confer any rights on any person, State,
7	or locality; or
8	(B) operate to bind the Federal Trade
9	Commission or any person to the approach rec-
10	ommended in such guidance.
11	(2) Use in enforcement actions.—In any
12	enforcement action brought pursuant to this Act, the
13	Federal Trade Commission—
14	(A) shall allege a violation of a provision of
15	this Act; and
16	(B) may not base such enforcement action
17	on, or execute a consent order based on, prac-
18	tices that are alleged to be inconsistent with
19	guidance issued by the Federal Trade Commis-
20	sion with respect to this Act, unless the prac-
21	tices are alleged to violate a provision of this
22	Act.
23	SEC. 11. ENFORCEMENT.
24	(a) Enforcement by Federal Trade Commis-
25	SION.—

1	(1) Unfair and deceptive acts or prac-
2	TICES.—A violation of this Act shall be treated as
3	a violation of a rule defining an unfair or deceptive
4	act or practice prescribed under section 18(a)(1)(B)
5	of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C.
6	57a(a)(1)(B)).
7	(2) Powers of the commission.—
8	(A) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Trade
9	Commission (referred to in this section as the
10	"Commission") shall enforce this Act in the
11	same manner, by the same means, and with the
12	same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though
13	all applicable terms and provisions of the Fed-
14	eral Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et
15	seq.) were incorporated into and made a part of
16	this Act.
17	(B) PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES.—Any
18	person that violates this Act shall be subject to
19	the penalties, and entitled to the privileges and
20	immunities, provided in the Federal Trade
21	Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.).
22	(3) AUTHORITY PRESERVED.—Nothing in this
23	Act shall be construed to limit the authority of the
24	Commission under any other provision of law.

1	(b)	ENFORCEMENT BY STATE ATTORNEYS GEN-
2	ERAL.—	
3		(1) IN GENERAL.—
4		(A) CIVIL ACTIONS.—In any case in which
5		the attorney general of a State has reason to
6		believe that an interest of the residents of that
7		State has been or is threatened or adversely af-
8		fected by the engagement of any person in a
9		practice that violates this Act, the State, as
10		parens patriae, may bring a civil action on be-
11		half of the residents of the State in a district
12		court of the United States or a State court of
13		appropriate jurisdiction to—
14		(i) enjoin that practice;
15		(ii) enforce compliance with this Act;
16		(iii) on behalf of residents of the
17		State, obtain damages, restitution, or other
18		compensation, each of which shall be dis-
19		tributed in accordance with State law; or
20		(iv) obtain such other relief as the
2,1		court may consider to be appropriate.
22		(B) NOTICE.—
23		(i) IN GENERAL.—Before filing an ac-
24		tion under subparagraph (A), the attorney

1	general of the State involved shall provide
2	to the Commission—
3.	(I) written notice of that action;
4	and
5	(II) a copy of the complaint for
6	that action.
7	(ii) Exemption.—
8,	(I) IN GENERAL.—Clause (i)
9	shall not apply with respect to the fil-
10	ing of an action by an attorney gen-
11	eral of a State under this paragraph
12	if the attorney general of the State
13	determines that it is not feasible to
14	provide the notice described in that
15	clause before the filing of the action.
16	(II) NOTIFICATION.—In an ac-
17	tion described in subclause (I), the at-
18	torney general of a State shall provide
19	notice and a copy of the complaint to
20	the Commission at the same time as
21	the attorney general files the action.
22	(2) Intervention.—
23	(A) IN GENERAL.—On receiving notice
24	under paragraph (1)(B), the Commission shall

1	have the right to intervene in the action that is
2	the subject of the notice.
3	(B) EFFECT OF INTERVENTION.—If the
4	Commission intervenes in an action under para-
5	graph (1), it shall have the right—
6	(i) to be heard with respect to any
7	matter that arises in that action; and
8	(ii) to file a petition for appeal.
9	(3) Construction.—For purposes of bringing
10	any civil action under paragraph (1), nothing in this
11	Act shall be construed to prevent an attorney gen-
12	eral of a State from exercising the powers conferred
13	on the attorney general by the laws of that State
14	to—
15	(A) conduct investigations;
16	(B) administer oaths or affirmations; or
17	(C) compel the attendance of witnesses or
18	the production of documentary and other evi-
19	dence.
20	(4) Actions by the commission.—In any
21	case in which an action is instituted by or on behalf
22	of the Commission for violation of this Act, no State
23	may, during the pendency of that action, institute a
24	separate action under paragraph (1) against any de-
25	fendant named in the complaint in the action insti-

1	tuted by or on behalf of the Commission for that
2	violation.
3	(5) VENUE; SERVICE OF PROCESS.—
4	(A) VENUE.—Any action brought under
5	paragraph (1) may be brought in—
6	(i) the district court of the United
7	States that meets applicable requirements
8	relating to venue under section 1391 of
9	title 28, United States Code; or
10	(ii) a State court of competent juris-
11	diction.
12	(B) SERVICE OF PROCESS.—In an action
13	brought under paragraph (1) in a district court
14	of the United States, process may be served
15	wherever defendant—
16	(i) is an inhabitant; or
17	(ii) may be found.
18	SEC. 12. KIDS ONLINE SAFETY COUNCIL.
19	(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
20	the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Com-
21	merce shall establish and convene the Kids Online Safety
22	Council for the purpose of providing advice on matters re-
23	lated to this Act.
24	(b) PARTICIPATION.—The Kids Online Safety Coun-
25	cil shall include diverse participation from—

1	(1) academic experts, nearth professionals, and
2	members of civil society with expertise in mental
3	health, substance use disorders, and the prevention
4	of harms to minors;
5	(2) representatives in academia and civil society
6	with specific expertise in privacy and civil liberties;
7	(3) parents and youth representation;
8	(4) representatives of covered platforms;
9	(5) representatives of the National Tele-
10	communications and Information Administration,
11	the National Institute of Standards and Technology,
12	the Federal Trade Commission, the Department of
13	Justice, and the Department of Health and Human
14	Services;
15	(6) State attorneys general or their designees
16	acting in State or local government;
17	(7) educators; and
18	(8) representatives of communities of socially
19	disadvantaged individuals (as defined in section 8 of
20	the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637)).
21	(c) ACTIVITIES.—The matters to be addressed by the
22	Kids Online Safety Council shall include—
23	(1) identifying emerging or current risks of
24	harms to minors associated with online platforms;

1	(2) recommending measures and methods for
2	assessing, preventing, and mitigating harms to mi-
3	nors online;
4	(3) recommending methods and themes for con-
5	ducting research regarding online harms to minors;
6	and
7	(4) recommending best practices and clear, con-
8	sensus-based technical standards for transparency
9	reports and audits, as required under this Act, in-
10	cluding methods, criteria, and scope to promote
11	overall accountability.
12	SEC. 13. EFFECTIVE DATE.
13	Except as otherwise provided in this Act, this Act
14	shall take effect on the date that is 18 months after the
15	date of enactment of this Act.
16	SEC. 14. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION AND OTHER MATTERS.
17	(a) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS.—Nothing in
18	this Act shall be construed to—
19	(1) preempt section 444 of the General Edu-
20	cation Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g, commonly
21	known as the "Family Educational Rights and Pri-
22	vacy Act of 1974") or other Federal or State laws
23	governing student privacy;

1.	(2) preempt the Children's Online Privacy Pro-
2	tection Act of 1998 (15 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.) or any
3	rule or regulation promulgated under such Act; or
4	(3) authorize any action that would conflict
5	with section 18(h) of the Federal Trade Commission
6	Act (15 U.S.C. 57a(h)).
7	(b) DETERMINATION OF "FAIRLY IMPLIED ON THE
8	Basis of Objective Circumstances".—For purposes
9	of enforcing this Act, in making a determination as to
10	whether covered platform has knowledge fairly implied on
11	the basis of objective circumstances that a user is a minor,
12	the Federal Trade Commission shall rely on competent
13	and reliable empirical evidence, taking into account the to-
14	tality of the circumstances, including consideration of
15	whether the operator, using available technology, exercised
16	reasonable care.
17	(c) PROTECTIONS FOR PRIVACY.—Nothing in this
18	Act shall be construed to require—
19	(1) the affirmative collection of any personal
20	data with respect to the age of users that a covered
21	platform is not already collecting in the normal
22	course of business; or
23	(2) a covered platform to implement an age
24	gating or age verification functionality.

1	(d) Compliance.—Nothing in this Act shall be con-
2	strued to restrict a covered platform's ability to—
3	(1) cooperate with law enforcement agencies re-
4	garding activity that the covered platform reasonably
5	and in good faith believes may violate Federal,
6	State, or local laws, rules, or regulations;
7	(2) comply with a civil, criminal, or regulatory
8	inquiry or any investigation, subpoena, or summons
9	by Federal, State, local, or other government au-
10	thorities; or
11	(3) investigate, establish, exercise, respond to,
12	or defend against legal claims.
13	(e) Application to Video Streaming Services.—
14	A video streaming service shall be deemed to be in compli-
15	ance with this Act if it predominantly consists of news,
16	sports, entertainment, or other video programming con-
17	tent that is preselected by the provider and not user-gen-
18	erated, and—
19	(1) any chat, comment, or interactive
20	functionality is provided incidental to, directly re-
21	lated to, or dependent on provision of such content;
22	(2) if such video streaming service requires ac-
23	count owner registration and is not predominantly
24	news or sports, the service includes the capability—

1	(A) to limit a minor's access to the service
2	which may utilize a system of age-rating;
3	(B) to limit the automatic playing of on-
4	demand content selected by a personalized rec-
5	ommendation system for an individual that the
6	service knows is a minor;
7	(C) to provide an individual that the serv-
8	ice knows is a minor with readily-accessible and
9	easy-to-use options to delete an account held by
10	the minor and delete any personal data col-
11	lected from the minor on the service, or, in the
12	case of a service that allows a parent to create
13	a profile for a minor, to allow a parent to delete
14	the minor's profile, and to delete any persona
15	data collected from the minor on the service;
16	(D) for a parent to manage a minor's pri-
17	vacy and account settings, and restrict pur
18	chases and financial transactions by a minor
19	where applicable;
20	(E) to provide an electronic point of con-
21	tact specific to matters described in this para-
22	graph;
23	(F) to offer a clear, conspicuous, and easy
24	to-understand notice of its policies and prac-

1	tices with respect to personal data and the ca-
2	pabilities described in this paragraph; and
3	(G) when providing on-demand content, to
4	employ measures that safeguard against serving
5	advertising for narcotic drugs (as defined in
6	section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act
7	(21 U.S.C. 802)), tobacco products, gambling,
8	or alcohol directly to the account or profile of
9	an individual that the service knows is a minor.
10	SEC. 15. SEVERABILITY.
11	If any provision of this Act, or an amendment made
12	by this Act, is determined to be unenforceable or invalid,
13	the remaining provisions of this Act and the amendments
14	made by this Act shall not be affected.