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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE BILL

No. 2529 Session of  
2024

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INTRODUCED BY TOMLINSON, WHITE, HOGAN, M. MACKENZIE,  
R. MACKENZIE, KAUFFMAN, MARCELL, HEFFLEY, NEILSON, BANTA,  
SMITH, STAATS, M. JONES, JOZWIAK, CIRESI, GILLEN AND ROWE,  
AUGUST 12, 2024

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY, AUGUST 12, 2024

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AN ACT

1 Amending Title 18 (Crimes and Offenses) of the Pennsylvania  
2 Consolidated Statutes, in computer offenses, providing for  
3 social media platforms; and imposing a penalty.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Chapter 76 of Title 18 of the Pennsylvania  
7 Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a subchapter to read:

8 SUBCHAPTER F

9 SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

10 Sec.

11 7671. Definitions.

12 7672. Unlawful use of social media platform.

13 § 7671. Definitions.

14 The following words and phrases when used in this subchapter  
15 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
16 context clearly indicates otherwise:

17 "Internet." As defined in section 7621 (relating to

1 definitions).

2 "Social media platform." As follows:

3 (1) An Internet website or online or mobile application  
4 that is open to the public, allows a user to create an  
5 account and enables users to communicate with other users for  
6 the primary purpose of posting information, comments,  
7 messages or images.

8 (2) The term does not include:

9 (i) An Internet service provider as defined in  
10 section 7621.

11 (ii) Email.

12 (iii) An online service, application or website:

13 (A) that consists primarily of news, sports,  
14 entertainment or other information or content that is  
15 not user generated but is preselected by the  
16 provider; and

17 (B) for which chat, comments or interactive  
18 functionality is incidental to, directly related to  
19 or dependent on the provision of the content  
20 described by clause (A).

21 "Use." To post, upload, transmit, share or otherwise publish  
22 content through a social media platform.

23 § 7672. Unlawful use of social media platform.

24 (a) Offense defined.--A person commits a felony of the third  
25 degree if the person uses a social media platform to commit or  
26 cause or to aid, abet, entice or encourage another individual to  
27 commit a crime that constitutes a felony under this title.

28 (b) Separate offenses.--Each instance in which a social  
29 media platform is utilized in violation of subsection (a)  
30 constitutes a separate offense under this section.

1       (c) Penalty.--A person who violates this section shall, upon  
2 conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine of not more than \$15,000  
3 or to imprisonment for not more than seven years, or both.

4       Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.