

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8250

To require operating system providers to verify the age of any user of an operating system, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 13, 2026

Mr. GOTTHEIMER (for himself and Ms. STEFANIK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To require operating system providers to verify the age of any user of an operating system, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Parents Decide Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. REQUIRED AGE VERIFICATION FOR USERS OF OP-**
6 **ERATING SYSTEMS.**

7 (a) REQUIREMENTS.—An operating system provider,
8 with respect to any operating system of such provider,
9 shall carry out the following:

1 (1) Require any user of the operating system to
2 provide the date of birth of the user in order to—

3 (A) set up an account on the operating
4 system; and

5 (B) use the operating system.

6 (2) If the relevant user of the operating system
7 is under 18 years of age, require a parent or legal
8 guardian of the user to verify the date of birth of
9 the user.

10 (3) Develop a system to allow an app developer
11 to access any information as is necessary, collected
12 by the operating system to carry out this section and
13 any regulation promulgated under this section, to
14 verify the date of birth of a user of an app of the
15 app developer.

16 (b) SAFE HARBOR.—An operating system provider
17 may not be held liable for a violation of a provision of
18 this Act or a regulation promulgated under this Act if the
19 provider follows the requirements described in such provi-
20 sion or regulation.

21 (c) ENFORCEMENT BY COMMISSION.—

22 (1) UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE ACTS OR PRAC-
23 TICES.—A violation of this section or a regulation
24 promulgated under this section shall be treated as a
25 violation of a regulation under section 18(a)(1)(B)

1 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C.
2 57a(a)(1)(B)) regarding unfair or deceptive acts or
3 practices.

4 (2) POWERS OF COMMISSION.—The Commis-
5 sion shall enforce this section and any regulation
6 promulgated under this section in the same manner,
7 by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction,
8 powers, and duties as though all applicable terms
9 and provisions of the Federal Trade Commission Act
10 (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.) were incorporated into and
11 made a part of this Act. Any person who violates
12 this section or a regulation promulgated under this
13 section shall be subject to the penalties and entitled
14 to the privileges and immunities provided in the
15 Federal Trade Commission Act.

16 (d) REGULATIONS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
18 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
19 Commission shall promulgate, under section 553 of
20 title 5, United States Code, regulations to carry out
21 this section, including regulations relating to the fol-
22 lowing:

23 (A) How an operating system provider

24 can—

1 (i) verify the date of birth of a parent
2 or legal guardian described in subsection
3 (a)(2); and

4 (ii) carry out the requirements de-
5 scribed in subsection (a) with respect to an
6 operating system of such provider that
7 may be shared by individuals of varying
8 ages.

9 (B) Data protection standards related to
10 how an operating system provider shall ensure
11 a date of birth collected by the operating sys-
12 tem provider from a user, or the parent or legal
13 guardian of the user, to carry out this section
14 and any regulation promulgated under this sec-
15 tion—

16 (i) is collected in a secure manner to
17 maintain the privacy of the user or the
18 parent or legal guardian of the user; and

19 (ii) is not stolen or breached.

20 (C) How an operating system provider
21 shall—

22 (i) ensure an app developer can access
23 information collected by the operating sys-
24 tem provider to carry out this section and
25 any regulation promulgated under this sec-

tion, subject to the data protection standards under subparagraph (B), to verify the date of birth of a user of an app of the app developer; and

(ii) ensure the parent or legal guardian of a user of an operating system who is under 18 years of age is allowed to control what such user is allowed to access on a device.

(2) BRIEFING TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall brief Congress on the following information:

(A) The rulemaking process of the Commission with respect to such regulations.

(B) Any considerations of the Commission with respect to implementing such regulations.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to Congress a report on—

(1) how operating system providers carry out the requirements described in subsection (a); and

(2) any recommendation for legislative action related to updating such requirements.

1 (f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section, and any regula-
2 tion promulgated pursuant to subsection (d)(1), shall take
3 effect on the date that is 1 year after the date of the enact-
4 ment of this Act.

5 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) APP.—The term “app” means a software
7 application or electronic service that may be run or
8 directed by a user on a computer, mobile device, or
9 any other general purpose computing device.

10 (2) APP DEVELOPER.—The term “app devel-
11 oper” means a person that owns or controls an app
12 that is available for use in the United States.

13 (3) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”
14 means the Federal Trade Commission.

15 (4) OPERATING SYSTEM.—The term “operating
16 system” means software that supports the basic
17 functions of a computer, mobile device, or any other
18 general purpose computing device.

19 (5) OPERATING SYSTEM PROVIDER.—The term
20 “operating system provider” means a person that
21 develops, licenses, or controls the operating system
22 on a computer, mobile device, or any other general
23 purpose computing device.

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