

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2023

H.B. 773  
Apr 18, 2023  
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH30279-MV-22

Short Title: Let Parents Choose/Sammy's Law of 2023. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative McNeely.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO ENACT THE LET PARENTS CHOOSE PROTECTION ACT OF 2023 TO  
3 FACILITATE MANAGEMENT OF THE SOCIAL MEDIA INTERACTIONS OF  
4 CHILDREN.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 SECTION 1. Chapter 75 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new Article  
7 to read:

8 "Article 9.

9 "Let Parents Choose Protection Act of 2023.

10 "**§ 75-150. Title.**

11 This Article shall be known and may be cited as the "Let Parents Choose Protection Act of  
12 2023" or "Sammy's Law of 2023."

13 "**§ 75-151. Findings.**

14 The General Assembly finds the following:

- 15 (1) Parents and legal guardians should have the choice to use the services of  
16 third-party safety software providers to protect their children from harm on  
17 large social media platforms.  
18 (2) Dangers like cyberbullying, human trafficking, illegal drug distribution,  
19 sexual harassment, and violence perpetrated, facilitated, or exacerbated  
20 through the use of certain large social media platforms have harmed social  
21 media users under the age of 18 years.

22 "**§ 75-152. Definitions.**

23 The following definitions apply in this Article:

- 24 (1) Child. – Any individual under the age of 18 years who has registered an  
25 account with a large social media platform.  
26 (2) Commerce. – As defined in 15 U.S.C. § 44.  
27 (3) Delegation. – A grant of authority from a child 13 years of age or older or the  
28 legal guardian of a child to a third-party safety software provider to perform  
29 the functions described in G.S. 75-153.  
30 (4) Large social media platform. – A service provided through an internet website  
31 or a mobile application, or both, to which all of the following applies:  
32 a. The terms of service do not prohibit use of the service by a child.  
33 b. The service includes any feature that enables a child to share images,  
34 text, or video through the internet with other users of the service whom  
35 the child has met, identified, or become aware of solely through the  
36 use of the service.



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1           c.     The service has more than 1,000,000 monthly active users in the  
2                 United States or generates more than five hundred million dollars  
3                 (\$500,000,000) in annual gross revenue, adjusted annually for  
4                 inflation.

5           The term does not include a service that primarily serves to facilitate (i) the  
6           sale or provision of professional services, (ii) the sale of commercial products,  
7           or (iii) if the service does not include the ability for content to be sent by a  
8           user directly to a child, the provision of news or information. The term also  
9           does not include a service that both (i) includes a feature that enables a user  
10           who communicates directly with a child through a message, including a text,  
11           audio, or video message not otherwise available to other users of the service,  
12           to add to that message other users that the child may not have otherwise met,  
13           identified, or become aware of solely through the use of the service and (ii)  
14           does not include any feature described in sub subdivision b. of this  
15           subdivision.

16           (5)   Large social media platform provider. – Any person who, for commercial  
17                 purposes in or affecting commerce, provides, manages, operates, or controls  
18                 a large social media platform.

19           (6)   Third-party safety software provider. – Any person who, for commercial  
20                 purposes in or affecting commerce, is authorized by a child 13 years of age or  
21                 older or by the parent or legal guardian of a child to interact with a large social  
22                 media platform to manage or analyze the child's online interactions, data, or  
23                 account settings for the sole purpose of protecting the child from harm,  
24                 including physical, emotional, or financial harm.

25           (7)   User data. – Any information or content, including images, video, audio, and  
26                 text, that is created by or sent to a child on or through the child's social media  
27                 platform account while under a delegation, but only during the 30-day period  
28                 beginning on the date the information or content is created by or sent to the  
29                 child.

30    **"§ 75-153. Duties of large social media platform providers.**

31           (a)   A large social media platform provider with users in this State shall create, maintain,  
32                 and make available to any third-party safety software provider registered to do business in this  
33                 State a set of third-party accessible real-time application programming interfaces and any  
34                 information necessary to use the interfaces. The interfaces shall be made available upon the  
35                 request of the third-party safety software provider and shall facilitate the ability of a child 13  
36                 years of age or older or a legal guardian of a child to delegate permission to the third-party safety  
37                 software provider to perform the following functions:

38                 (1)   Manage the child's online interactions, content, and account settings on the  
39                 large social media platform on terms designated by the child 13 years of age  
40                 or older or the legal guardian of a child.

41                 (2)   Initiate secure transfers of user data from the large social media platform in a  
42                 commonly used and machine-readable format to the third-party safety  
43                 software provider. The social media platform provider shall not limit the  
44                 transfers to less than once per hour.

45           (b)   A large social media platform provider shall comply with the requirements of this  
46                 Article beginning no later than 30 days from the date the platform first meets the definition under  
47                 G.S. 75-152(4) and shall continue to comply until it no longer meets that definition or until any  
48                 of the following occurs:

49                 (1)   The individual who made the delegation revokes the delegation.

50                 (2)   The individual who made the delegation revokes or disables the registration  
51                 of the account of the child with the large social media platform.

1           (3)    The third-party safety software provider rejects the delegation.

2   **"§ 75-154. User data disclosure limitations.**

3           (a)    A third-party safety software provider as described in this Article shall not disclose  
4 any user data obtained under G.S. 75-153 to any other person, except as follows:

5           (1)    Pursuant to a lawful request from a government body, including for law  
6 enforcement purposes or for judicial or administrative proceedings by means  
7 of a court order or a court-ordered warrant, a subpoena or summons issued by  
8 a judicial officer, or a grand jury subpoena.

9           (2)    To the extent that the disclosure is required by law and complies with and is  
10 limited to the relevant requirements of the law.

11          (3)    To the individual who made the delegation or with the explicit consent of the  
12 individual who made the delegation.

13          (4)    In the case of a reasonably foreseeable serious and imminent threat to the  
14 health or safety of any individual, to a person reasonably able to prevent or  
15 lessen the threat.

16          (5)    To a public health authority or other appropriate government authority  
17 authorized by law to receive reports of child abuse or neglect.

18          (b)    A third-party safety software provider that makes a disclosure under subdivision (1),  
19 (2), (4), or (5) of subsection (a) of this section shall promptly inform a parent or legal guardian  
20 of the child who made the delegation that the disclosure has been or will be made, except in either  
21 of the following circumstances:

22          (1)    The third-party safety software provider, in the exercise of professional  
23 judgment, believes informing the parent or legal guardian would place the  
24 child at risk of serious harm.

25          (2)    The third-party safety software provider is prohibited by law, including a valid  
26 order by a court or administrative body, from informing the parent or legal  
27 guardian.

28   **"§ 75-155. Enforcement.**

29           A violation of this Article is an unfair and deceptive trade practice under G.S. 75-1.1."

30           **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law and the requirements of this  
31 act on large social media platform providers apply beginning 30 days after that date.