

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2023

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HOUSE BILL 773

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

Sponsors: Representatives McNeely, Cotham, and Johnson (Primary Sponsors).  
*For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*

Referred to: Commerce, if favorable, Families, Children, and Aging Policy, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

April 19, 2023

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



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1 the child has met, identified, or become aware of solely through the  
2 use of the service.

3 c. The service has more than 1,000,000 monthly active users in the  
4 United States or generates more than five hundred million dollars  
5 (\$500,000,000) in annual gross revenue, adjusted annually for  
6 inflation.

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

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

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

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

32 **"§ 75-153. Duties of large social media platform providers.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4    **"§ 75-154. User data disclosure limitations.**

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

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

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

13          (3)    To the individual who made the delegation or with the explicit consent of the  
14                  individual who made the delegation.

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

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

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

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

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

30    **"§ 75-155. Enforcement.**

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

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