
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anthony Portantino, Chair
2021 - 2022 Regular Session

AB 587 (Gabriel) - Social media companies: terms of service

Version: June 30, 2022

Policy Vote: JUD. 9 - 0

Urgency: No

Mandate: No

Hearing Date: August 11, 2022

Consultant: Matthew Fleming

Bill Summary: AB 587 would require social media companies, as defined, to post their terms of service and to submit quarterly reports to the Attorney General on their terms of service and content moderation policies and outcomes.

***** **ANALYSIS ADDENDUM – SUSPENSE FILE** *****

The following information is revised to reflect amendments
adopted by the committee on August 11, 2022

Fiscal Impact:

- DOJ: The Department of Justice (DOJ) reports costs of \$414,000 in 2022-23 and \$711,000 annually thereafter in order to enforce the provisions of AB 587 and for IT resources to allow for submissions of terms of service (General Fund).
- Judicial Branch: Unknown cost pressures due to increased court workload (Special Fund – Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund).

Author Amendments:

- Provide that social media companies must submit reports to the Attorney General on a semiannual, rather than a quarterly basis, as specified.
- Require reports to be submitted to the Attorney General electronically.
- Clarify that internet-based services or applications for which interactions between users are limited to direct messages, commercial interactions, consumer reviews of products, sellers, services, events, or places, or any combination such interactions, are exempt.
- Make other technical and clarifying amendments.

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