
SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Sabrina Cervantes, Chair
2025 - 2026 Regular Session

AB 1709 (Lowenthal) - Covered platforms: age restriction: e-Safety Advisory Commission

Version: July 9, 2026

Policy Vote: P., D.T., & C.P. 7 - 0, JUD.
13 - 0

Urgency: No

Mandate: No

Hearing Date: August 13, 2026

Consultant: Bob Franzoia

Bill Summary: This bill prohibits “covered platforms” that provide addictive feeds from allowing users under the age of 16 to create or maintain an account. The Attorney General (AG) may adopt regulations, as provided. The bill establishes the e-Safety Advisory Commission to advise the AG on, among other things, implementation and enforcement.

***** **ANALYSIS ADDENDUM – SUSPENSE FILE** *****
The following information is revised to reflect amendments
adopted by the committee on August 13, 2026

Fiscal Impact: Major costs to the Department of Justice, including enforcing the social media ban provisions and rulemaking. (General Fund)

Significant to major costs annually to establish an e-Safety Advisory Commission.
Costs may vary widely by year depending on workload. (General Fund)

Potentially significant costs to the courts to adjudicate new penalties depending on violations that may be unique to every platform. An eight-hour court day costs approximately \$10,500 based on the hourly rate of court personnel including at minimum the judge, clerk, bailiff, court reporter, jury administrator, administrative staff, and jury per-diems. While the courts are not funded on a workload basis, an increase in workload could result in delayed court services and would put pressure on the General Fund to fund additional staff and resources. The FY 2026-27 Budget appropriated \$70 million General Fund for this purpose (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund).

Committee Amendments:

- Provide that the e-Safety Advisory Commission is established as an independent advisory body that is only for administrative purposes within the Department of Justice. The commission shall not be considered a part of the Department of Justice for any other purpose. The commission is purely advisory. The commission’s advice and recommendations are not binding upon, and shall not be imputed to any agency or department of the state.
- Make other conforming changes related to the e-Safety Advisory Commission.

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