

incur any costs. The bill does not establish a new state program, regulatory body, or rulemaking authority — the underlying enforcement infrastructure was established by AB 1043.

COMMENTS:

1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

AB 1856 would clarify provisions in order for applications and operating system providers to work within this framework of age assurance. In addition, we also want to ensure that all online spaces where children can access, such as websites, are included within this age assurance framework and can comply with applicable laws

- 2) **Background.** AB 1043 enacted the Digital Age Assurance Act, effective in 2027, under which parents configure a device's operating system at account setup to indicate the primary user's age, and the operating system sends a non-identifying age bracket signal (under 13, 13-16, 16-18, or 18+) to application developers via covered application stores. Developers must treat the signal as the primary indicator of age and are deemed to have actual knowledge of the user's age range upon receipt. In signing AB 1043, Governor Newsom noted that streaming services and video game developers raised concerns about implementation in multi-user family-account contexts and urged the Legislature to address those concerns. This bill responds by clarifying that obligations apply only to primary device users and that subaccount age information overrides device-level signals, and by extending the framework to browsers and websites through a parallel intermediary scheme.

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