



SENATE BILL 2262

By Lowe

**AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4;
Title 29; Title 47 and Title 65, relative to consumer
protection.**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 47, Chapter 18, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Blacklist" means to:

(A) Reduce visibility or accessibility of a small business's website on an online platform or other platform;

(B) Remove a small business's website or the search result for the small business's website from a business entity's platform or the business entity's related applications or websites; or

(C) Delete or otherwise remove twenty-five percent (25%) or more of the reviews, if applicable, that a small business has at the time of removal;

(2) "Online search engine" means an application or website through which a user can search for information, including the website or contact information of a small business, on the internet; and

(3) "Small business" means a business entity, including the entity's affiliates, that employs fifty (50) or fewer full-time employees.

(b) If a business entity blacklists a small business, including an online search engine on the online search engine company's related applications or websites, then the

business entity must provide notice of the action to the small business within twenty-four (24) hours of the action. The notice must include the following information:

(1) An explanation of why the business entity blacklisted the small business;

(2) Information for how the small business can remedy or otherwise respond to the action; and

(3) Contact information for a representative of the online search engine that the small business may contact to discuss a resolution of the action.

(c)

(1) If a business entity fails to comply with the requirements of subsection (b), then an affected small business may bring a cause of action in a court of competent jurisdiction. A court that finds that the business entity violated subsection (b) may award:

(A) Actual damages;

(B) Punitive damages; or

(C) Reasonable court costs and attorney fees.

(2) In addition to the remedies described under subdivision (c)(1), if a court finds that a business entity is violating subsection (b), then the court may order injunctive relief to enjoin the business entity from continuing to violate subsection (b). A search engine is not in compliance with the requirements of subsection (b) until all information required under subdivisions (b)(1)-(3) is provided to the small business.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2026, the public welfare requiring it, and applies to conduct occurring on or after that date.

Amendment No. 1 to HB2028

Vaughan
Signature of Sponsor

AMEND Senate Bill No. 2262

House Bill No. 2028*

by deleting all language after the enacting clause and substituting:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 47, Chapter 18, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Blacklist" means to:

(A) Reduce the visibility or accessibility of a small business's website on an online search engine;

(B) Remove a small business's website or the search result for the small business's website from an online search engine; or

(C) Delete or otherwise remove from the online search engine twenty-five percent (25%) or more of the reviews of a small business;

(2) "Online search engine" means an internet website or application whose primary function is to provide a user a method, whether by query search or other means, to search the internet, including for websites, webpages, or other information, but does not include any other business entity, social media platform, review website, or other platform; and

(3) "Small business" means a business entity, including the business entity's affiliates, that employs fifty (50) or fewer full-time employees.

(b) A small business that believes an online search engine has blacklisted the small business may contact the online search engine and request a written or electronic response concerning the action.

(c) No later than five (5) business days after receiving a request under subsection (b), an online search engine must provide a written or electronic response to the small business that includes:

(1) An explanation of the action and the justification for the action; or

(2)

(A) The process, steps, and requirements necessary for the small business to appeal the action or be restored or re-indexed; and

(B) The contact information for a representative of the online search engine.

(d)

(1) A small business affected by an online search engine's failure to comply with subsection (c) may bring a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction.

(2) If a court finds that the online search engine violated subsection (c), then the court may award:

(A) Actual damages;

(B) Punitive damages; and

(C) Reasonable court costs and attorneys' fees.

(3) In addition to the remedies authorized by subdivision (d)(2), if a court finds that an online search engine violated subsection (c), then the court may enjoin the online search engine from continuing to violate subsection (c).

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2026, the public welfare requiring it, and applies to conduct occurring on or after that date.