

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

## House Labor & Commerce Committee



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### Sponsor Statement

#### House Bill 271: Parental Consent for Social Media Account

Social media platforms offer tremendous opportunities for connection and information, but they also present unique risks for young users. This bill seeks to create a framework that balances these realities, fostering a safer online environment for our most vulnerable citizens.

#### House Bill 271 proposes several key measures:

- **Parental consent and verification:** Requiring parental consent for children to join social media platforms is crucial. This empowers parents to make informed decisions about their child's online activity and allows them to set healthy boundaries. Verification of parental identity ensures authenticity and prevents potential exploitation.
- **Age verification:** Ensuring platforms know the age of their users allows them to tailor their content and features appropriately. This protects children from inappropriate content and marketing practices.
- **Parental access and control:** Granting parents access to their child's account empowers them to monitor activity, understand their child's online engagement, and address any concerns promptly.
- **Prohibition of targeted advertising and manipulative content:** Children are particularly susceptible to targeted advertising and algorithms that exploit their vulnerabilities. This bill protects them from being manipulated for commercial gain or exposed to harmful content.
- **Curfew for minor users:** Establishing a designated curfew promotes healthy sleep habits and reduces the risk of excessive screen time, which can negatively impact mental and physical well-being.

**We urge the legislature to carefully consider House Bill 271 and recognize its potential to create a safer, more responsible online environment for our children.**