

**BILL SUMMARY**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Session of the 59<sup>th</sup> Legislature

<b>Bill No.:</b>	<b>SB1959</b>
<b>Version:</b>	<b>Engrossed</b>
<b>Request Number:</b>	<b>NA</b>
<b>Author:</b>	<b>Rep. Hasenbeck</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>4/9/2024</b>
<b>Impact:</b>	<b>No Impact</b>

**Research Analysis**

SB 1959 provides that any commercial entity that knowingly and intentionally publishes or distributes obscene material, or material that depicts or promotes child pornography or child sexual exploitation, on the Internet may be held liable to an individual for nominal damages, actual damages, court costs, and reasonable attorney fees. Any commercial entity that knowingly and intentionally publishes or distributes material harmful to minors on the Internet must provide Internet service subscribers and cellular service subscribers an opportunity to request that access to the harmful material be denied. Once requested, the commercial entity must block access to the its website on any device seeking to access its website using the subscriber's Internet service or cellular service subscription so that a minor does not receive material via that subscription. The measure provides that a commercial entity which performs reasonable age verification methods to not be held liable for allowing access to its website. The Attorney General is allowed to seek injunctive relief against a commercial entity that fails to comply.

Prepared By: Brad Wolgamott

**Fiscal Analysis**

In its current form, SB1959 proposes that commercial entities that knowingly and intentionally publish obscene material, or material that depicts or promotes child pornography or child sexual exploitation may be held liable to an individual for nominal damages, actual damages, court costs and attorney fees.

A commercial entity that knowingly and intentionally publishes or distributes material harmful to minors on the Internet must provide Internet and cellular service subscribers an opportunity to request that access to such material be denied, and the commercial entity must fulfill the request.

A commercial entity that performs reasonable age verification methods is not to be held liable for allowing access to its website.

This measure is not expected to directly impact state revenue or state appropriations.

Prepared By: Zach Penrod, House Fiscal Staff

**Other Considerations**

None.

