

S 1409

Kids Online Safety Act

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: May 2, 2023

Current Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 287.

Latest Action: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 287. (Dec 13, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/1409>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]

Party: Democratic • **State:** CT • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (72 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		May 2, 2023
Sen. Blackburn, Marsha [R-TN]	R · TN		May 2, 2023
Sen. Britt, Katie Boyd [R-AL]	R · AL		May 2, 2023
Sen. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV]	R · WV		May 2, 2023
Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]	D · PA		May 2, 2023
Sen. Cassidy, Bill [R-LA]	R · LA		May 2, 2023
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		May 2, 2023
Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]	R · TX		May 2, 2023
Sen. Daines, Steve [R-MT]	R · MT		May 2, 2023
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		May 2, 2023
Sen. Ernst, Joni [R-IA]	R · IA		May 2, 2023
Sen. Graham, Lindsey [R-SC]	R · SC		May 2, 2023
Sen. Grassley, Chuck [R-IA]	R · IA		May 2, 2023
Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH]	D · NH		May 2, 2023
Sen. Hickenlooper, John W. [D-CO]	D · CO		May 2, 2023
Sen. Hyde-Smith, Cindy [R-MS]	R · MS		May 2, 2023
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		May 2, 2023
Sen. Lujan, Ben Ray [D-NM]	D · NM		May 2, 2023
Sen. Lummis, Cynthia M. [R-WY]	R · WY		May 2, 2023
Sen. Marshall, Roger [R-KS]	R · KS		May 2, 2023
Sen. Mullin, Markwayne [R-OK]	R · OK		May 2, 2023
Sen. Murphy, Christopher [D-CT]	D · CT		May 2, 2023
Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI]	D · MI		May 2, 2023
Sen. Risch, James E. [R-ID]	R · ID		May 2, 2023
Sen. Rubio, Marco [R-FL]	R · FL		May 2, 2023
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		May 2, 2023
Sen. Scott, Rick [R-FL]	R · FL		May 2, 2023
Sen. Sullivan, Dan [R-AK]	R · AK		May 2, 2023
Sen. Warner, Mark R. [D-VA]	D · VA		May 2, 2023
Sen. Welch, Peter [D-VT]	D · VT		May 2, 2023
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		May 2, 2023
Sen. Young, Todd [R-IN]	R · IN		May 2, 2023
Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]	R · AK		May 17, 2023
Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]	R · MS		Jun 1, 2023
Sen. Kelly, Mark [D-AZ]	D · AZ		Jun 6, 2023
Sen. Manchin, Joe, III [D-WV]	D · WV		Jun 13, 2023
Sen. Crapo, Mike [R-ID]	R · ID		Jun 20, 2023
Sen. Lankford, James [R-OK]	R · OK		Jun 20, 2023
Sen. Carper, Thomas R. [D-DE]	D · DE		Jul 20, 2023
Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]	D · MD		Jul 26, 2023
Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA]	D · VA		Jul 26, 2023

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Jul 26, 2023
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Jul 27, 2023
Sen. Thune, John [R-SD]	R · SD		Sep 7, 2023
Sen. Hawley, Josh [R-MO]	R · MO		Sep 27, 2023
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Sep 27, 2023
Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]	D · CO		Feb 27, 2024
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Feb 27, 2024
Sen. Butler, Laphonza R. [D-CA]	D · CA		Feb 27, 2024
Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]	R · ME		Feb 27, 2024
Sen. Cortez Masto, Catherine [D-NV]	D · NV		Feb 27, 2024
Sen. Cramer, Kevin [R-ND]	R · ND		Feb 27, 2024
Sen. Cruz, Ted [R-TX]	R · TX		Feb 27, 2024
Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]	D · NM		Feb 27, 2024
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Feb 27, 2024
Sen. Kennedy, John [R-LA]	R · LA		Feb 27, 2024
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		Feb 27, 2024
Sen. Reed, Jack [D-RI]	D · RI		Feb 27, 2024
Sen. Romney, Mitt [R-UT]	R · UT		Feb 27, 2024
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Feb 27, 2024
Sen. Tillis, Thomas [R-NC]	R · NC		Feb 27, 2024
Sen. Tuberville, Tommy [R-AL]	R · AL		Feb 27, 2024
Sen. Vance, J. D. [R-OH]	R · OH		Feb 27, 2024
Sen. Fetterman, John [D-PA]	D · PA		Mar 7, 2024
Sen. Hagerty, Bill [R-TN]	R · TN		Mar 7, 2024
Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL]	D · IL		Apr 10, 2024
Sen. Ricketts, Pete [R-NE]	R · NE		Apr 10, 2024
Sen. Fischer, Deb [R-NE]	R · NE		Apr 19, 2024
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		Jul 23, 2024
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Jul 24, 2024
Sen. Ossoff, Jon [D-GA]	D · GA		Jul 25, 2024
Sen. Hoeven, John [R-ND]	R · ND		Jul 29, 2024

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Reported By	Dec 13, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 HR 7891	Related bill	Sep 18, 2024: Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Voice Vote.

Kids Online Safety Act

This bill sets out requirements to protect minors from online harms.

The requirements apply to covered platforms, which are applications or services (e.g., social networks) that connect to the internet and are likely to be used by minors. However, the bill exempts internet service providers, email services, educational institutions, and other specified entities from the requirements.

Covered platforms must take reasonable measures in the design and operation of products or services used by minors to prevent and mitigate certain harms that may arise from that use (e.g., sexual exploitation and online bullying).

Additionally, covered platforms must provide (1) minors with certain safeguards, such as settings that restrict access to minors' personal data; and (2) parents or guardians with tools to supervise minors' use of a platform, such as control of privacy and account settings.

Covered platforms must also

- disclose specified information, including details regarding the use of personalized recommendation systems and individual-specific advertising to minors;
- allow parents, guardians, minors, and schools to report certain harms;
- refrain from facilitating advertising of age-restricted products or services (e.g., tobacco and gambling) to minors; and
- annually report on foreseeable risks of harm to minors from using the platform.

Additionally, the bill requires large (based on specified revenue, employment, or user criteria) websites, internet applications, and search engines (including social network sites) to meet certain requirements before using algorithms that prioritize information furnished to the user based on user-specific data. For example, such platforms must (1) provide users with notice that the website uses such algorithms, and (2) make available a version of the platform that uses algorithms that do not prioritize information based on user data.

The bill provides for enforcement through the Federal Trade Commission and states.

Further, the bill requires the commission to seek to contract with the National Academy of Sciences to study the risks of harm to minors by the use of social media and other online platforms.

The bill establishes a council to advise on implementing the bill. It also requires guidance for market and product research focused on minors and an evaluation of options to verify a user's age.

Actions Timeline

- **Dec 13, 2023:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Reported by Senator Cantwell with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. Without written report.
- **Dec 13, 2023:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 287.
- **Jul 27, 2023:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **May 2, 2023:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 2, 2023:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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