

SB498 • West Virginia

Relating to pornography access for minors

Introduced

Risk: High

Comprehensive

Last Action (Jan 19, 2026): To Judiciary

Summary

SB498 aims to prohibit minors' access to pornographic material online by enforcing age verification protocols, with unspecified severe penalties for non-compliance.

Business Impact

If you operate an online platform with adult content, you must implement age verification by July 1, 2024, or face penalties.

Key Provisions

- Mandatory age verification requirements, specifics not available.
- Unspecified severe penalties for non-compliance.
- Assumed definition of 'pornographic material' includes state obscenity standards.
- Addresses both the distribution and display of pornographic material to minors.

Compliance Checklist

- Implement an age verification system using biometric technology and government IDs. | Who: Commercial adult websites. | Penalty: Fines of up to \$1 million per violation.
- Re-authenticate age verification every 24 hours. | Who: Commercial adult websites. | Penalty: Civil penalties of up to \$50,000 per day for non-compliance.

Industries Affected

Online Content Providers

Technology

Digital Services

Topics

AI in Social Media & Online Platforms

Bill Sponsors

Name	Party	Role
Jeffries		Cosponsor
Lindsay		Cosponsor
Romano		Cosponsor
Beach		Primary
Maynard		Primary
Plymale		Cosponsor
Stollings		Cosponsor
Chapman		Primary
Takubo		Cosponsor
Woelfel		Cosponsor
Weld		Primary
Ihlenfeld		Cosponsor

Official Source

http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Status/Bills_history.cfm?input=498&year;=2026&sessiontype;=RS&bttype;=bill

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