RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 185 (HB 977) **2026 Regular Session** **Beaullieu**

Not yet effective law provides relative to minors' use of applications (Act No. 481 of the 2025 Regular Session).

Not yet effective law provides for minors' use of applications, definitions, a covered application store provider's responsibilities and a developer's responsibilities.

Not yet effective law provides for liabilities and protections and for enforcement and penalties.

New law repeals not yet effective law.

New law provides relative to application stores and developers in regards to minors.

New law defines "age category", "child", "younger teenager", "older teenager", "adult", "age category data", "age rating", "application", "connected device", "content description", "covered application store", "covered application store provider", "developer", "family account application", "minor", "minor account", "mobile device", "mobile operating system", "parent", "parent account", "parental consent disclosure", "pre-loaded application", "significant change", and "verifiable parental consent".

New law requires a covered application store provider to do the following:

(1) Request age information from an individual and verify the individual's age category at the time an individual, who is located in the state, creates an account.

(2) If the age verification methods or process described in new law determines the individual to be a minor, require the account to be affiliated with a parent account and obtain verifiable parental consent from the holder of the affiliated parent account before allowing the minor to download an application, purchase an application, access an application that has been pre-loaded into a device, or enable the functionality make an in-application purchase.

(3) After receiving notice of a significant change from a developer, notify the user of the significant change and, for a minor account, notify the holder of the affiliated parent account, and obtain renewed verifiable parental consent.

(4) Provide certain information to a developer in response to a request authorized by new law.

(5) Notify a developer when a parent revokes parental consent.

(6) Protect personal age verification data by limiting collection and processing of certain data and by transmitting personal age verification data using certain protocols.

New law provides for what a covered application store provider shall not do.

New law requires that a developer do all of the following:

(1) Verify through the covered application store's data sharing methods the age category of users located in this state, and for a minor account, whether verifiable parental consent has been obtained pursuant to new law.

(2) Notify covered application store providers of a significant change to the application.

(3) Enforce all age-related restrictions.

(4) Enforce any developer-created age-related restrictions.

(5) Ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations. Any developer required by existing law to age-verify users at the application level shall continue to be

responsible for age verification. No provision in new law shall be construed to remove this responsibility. A developer who is required by law to conduct age verification at the application level, but to whom existing law does not apply, may utilize the age signal from the covered application store to fulfill its age verification obligation.

(6) Implement any developer-created safety-related features or defaults.

(7) Request from the covered application store provider personal age verification data or parental consent at the time a user downloads an application or purchases an application, when implementing a significant change to the application, or to comply with applicable law.

New law outlines when a developer may request personal age verification data or parental consent.

New law provides that a developer, other than one required to verify age pursuant to existing law, pursuant to new law, shall use the verified age signal from an operating system or application store to do all of the following:

(1) Enforce legally required minimum age restrictions.

(2) Ensure compliance with all laws and other obligations.

(3) In the provision of any age-appropriate defaults, safeguards, or experiences, except as provided new law.

New law provides that if the developer determines that an internal age signal conflicts with the age signal from a covered application store, the developer may rely on the signal from the covered application store unless the developer has actual knowledge that its internal signal is more accurate. If the developer has actual knowledge that its internal signal is more accurate, such as if the user provided proof of age to the developer, the developer shall use its internal signal or the lower of the two signals.

New law provides for what a developer shall not do.

New law provides for what a developer of a family account application may do.

New law provides for when a covered application store provider is not liable for a violation of new law.

New law provides for when a developer is not liable for a violation of new law.

New law provides that for the purposes of setting the age category of an application and providing content description disclosure to a covered application store provider, a developer complies with new law if the developer uses widely adopted industry standards to determine the application's age category and the content description disclosures and the developer applies those standards consistently and in good faith.

New law provides for applicability of the protection described in new law.

New law provides that nothing in new law shall displace any other available remedies or rights authorized under the laws of this state or the United States.

New law shall not be construed to do any of the following:

(1) Prevent a covered application store provider or developer from taking certain actions.

(2) Require a covered application store provider to disclose user information to a developer beyond age category or verification of parental consent status.

(3) Allow a covered application store provider or developer to implement measures required by new law in a manner that is arbitrary, capricious, anticompetitive, or unlawful.

(4) Require a developer to collect, retain, reidentify, or link any information beyond what is necessary to verify age categories and parental consent status as required by proposed law or what is collected, retained, reidentified, or linked in the developer's ordinary course of business.

(5) Relieve a developer of its obligation to conduct age verification as required by present law.

New law allows the attorney general to bring a civil action to enforce any violations of new law.

New law provides that a covered application store or developer that violates the provisions of new law shall be subject to a civil fine of up to $10,000 per violation set by the attorney general.

New law requires the attorney general to give written notice to any violators.

New law provides for when the attorney general may initiate a civil action against a person who fails to cure a violation or commits another violation after curing a violation.

New law provides relative to reasonable attorney fees, court costs, and investigative costs.

New law requires a person who violates an administrative order or court order issued for a violation of new law to pay a civil penalty of not more than $5,000 per violation set by the attorney general. Further provides that a civil penalty in accordance with new law may be imposed in any civil action brought by the attorney general.

New law directs that monies received from the payment of a fine or civil penalty imposed and collected pursuant to the provisions of new law shall be used by the attorney general for consumer protection enforcement efforts or to promote consumer protection and education.

New law provides for severability.

New law directs the La. State Law Institute to make technical changes.

Certain provisions of new law effective upon signature of governor (May 15, 2026).

Certain provisions of new law effective July 1, 2027.

(Amends the heading of Chapter 20-A of Title 51 of the La. R.S. of 1950; Adds R.S. 51:1771-1775; Repeals Act No. 481 of the 25 R.S.)