



**Department of Business Regulation
Office of the Director**

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April 7, 2026

The Honorable Jacquelyn M. Baginski
Chairperson, House Committee on Innovation and Technology
State House
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

RE: H7953 – An Act Relating to Commercial Law – General Regulatory Provisions – Rhode Island
Social Media Regulation Act

Dear Chair Baginski:

I write on behalf of the Department of Business Regulation with concerns regarding H7953. This bill would create a new program at the Department regulating social media platforms, with an eye towards the protection of youth users and prohibitions on the collection and use of user data.


This bill would require the Department to create a new program regulating a minor's access to social media platforms. This is unlike any of the Department's existing programs. The Department currently lacks the subject matter expertise and technical and staff resources necessary to carry out the licensing and regulatory provisions present in this bill. The bill tasks the Department with promulgating regulations to implement the legislation, submitting an annual report by October 15 of each year to the Governor, Speaker and Senate President, investigating complaints, conducting administrative enforcement hearings, and assisting the Office of the Attorney General in any matters referred by the Department for enforcement in court. To implement this program the Department would require: one (1) new chief level division SME/manager FTE (estimated cost, including benefits is \$250,000 per FTE), one (1) new administrative level FTEs (estimated cost, including benefits is \$150,000 per FTE), and two (2) new legal counsel FTEs (estimated cost, including benefits is \$250,000 per FTE). In addition, we would need more than 6 months to hire and train staff, promulgate regulations to implement this new, highly technical regulatory program. We would suggest an effective date of July 1, 2027, or later.

Alternatively, the intent of this legislation could be enacted without the addition of the proposed regulatory responsibilities for the Department, as they are duplicative of the powers granted to aggrieved parties through the private right of action in § 6-63-6. Removing the Department from this legislation does not, in our view, erode the bill's ability to accomplish its goals.

We would be happy to meet with the Committee and/or sponsors to discuss this bill further. Please do not hesitate to contact me at Elizabeth.dwyer@dbr.ri.gov or 401.462.9615 (office) or 401.578.6653 (mobile) with any questions or for additional information.

Thank you for your consideration of our position on this proposed legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Kelleher Dwyer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Elizabeth" being the most prominent.

Elizabeth Kelleher Dwyer, Esq.
Director, Department of Business Regulation

cc: Honorable Members of the House Committee on Innovation, Internet & Technology
Honorable Tina L. Spears
Nicole McCarty, Esq., Chief Legal Counsel to the Speaker of the House