Bill Summary 1st Session of the 57th Legislature

Bill No.: SB 533
Version: INT
Request No.: 1599
Author: Sen. Silk
Date: 01/24/2019

Bill Analysis

SB 533 authorizes social media users to sue for damages against any social media website that censors a user's political or religious speech, as defined by the measure. Damages include a minimum of \$75,000.00 per intentional deletion or censoring as well as actual and punitive damages and other relief. The measure applies to deleted posts as well as algorithms that suppress political or religious speech. Social media websites are immune from liability if the speech contains any immediate calls for violence, obscene material, minors bullying another minor, or enticed criminal conduct. Websites are also immune from liability if the post was deleted as a result of a court order, operational error, or if the post came from an inauthentic source. A person must be eighteen years or older to have standing to bring suit. The Attorney General is also authorized by the measure to bring action against any website on behalf of users in the state.

Prepared by: Kalen Taylor