

Bill Summary
2nd Session of the 59th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 1996
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Request No.	2421
Author:	Sen. Standridge
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Bill Analysis

SB 1996 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 shall not exceed \$75,000.00 per intentional deletion or censoring of the user's speech 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 18 years of age 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. The measure clarifies that a social media website shall not include electronic mail or any online service, application, or website consisting primarily of news, sports, entertainment, or other information or content that is not user-generated but is preselected or curated by the provider.

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