

Bill Summary
2nd Session of the 59th Legislature

Bill No.:	SB 1959
Version:	INT
Request No.	3007
Author:	Sen. Alvord
Date:	01/25/2024

Bill Analysis

SB 1959 provides that any commercial entity that knowingly and intentionally publishes or distributes obscene material, or material that depicts or promotes child pornography or child sexual exploitation, on the Internet may be held liable to an individual for nominal damages, actual damages, punitive damages, court costs, and reasonable attorney fees as ordered by the court. The measure requires commercial entities to provide Internet service subscribers and cellular service subscribers the opportunity to request that access to material deemed harmful to minors be denied. After receiving the request, the commercial entity shall block access to its website on any device seeking to access its website using the subscriber's Internet service or cellular service subscription so that a minor does not receive material harmful to minors via that subscription. Commercial entities that fail to comply with the request shall be held liable for damages to the minor. The commercial entity shall not be held liable if it uses reasonable age verification measures to restrict access to the site. Entities using such verification measures shall not retain identifying information and shall be held liable for damages if found to have retained such information. The measure authorizes the Attorney General to seek injunctive and other equitable relief against a commercial entity that fails to comply with the provisions of this measure.

Prepared by: Kalen Taylor