

App Store Accountability Act

Protecting children at the digital front door.

96%

of 14-year-olds
own a smartphone

0

parental consent
required to download any app

5

states have already
passed this law

\$0

cost to parents
under this bill

THE PROBLEM

Children access the digital world without their parents.

Today, a 10-year-old can download apps that expose them to predators, addictive algorithms, and harmful content — all without a parent ever being notified. Once the app is installed, families are left reacting to harm after it has already begun.

Existing parental controls are buried in settings menus, inconsistent across devices, and easily bypassed. They place the burden entirely on parents — while the app stores that profit from children face no accountability at all.

THE SOLUTION

Hold app stores accountable — before the download.

The App Store Accountability Act places a simple, practical requirement at the one chokepoint every app must pass through: the app store. Rather than trying to regulate thousands of individual apps, the bill holds Apple and Google responsible for verifying age and securing parental consent before any minor downloads an app.

**"One requirement. One enforcement point.
Every app, every platform, every new risk — covered."**

WHAT THE BILL REQUIRES

Four enforceable requirements.

- 1 Age Verification**
App stores must determine whether a user is a minor before any app download is completed — without requiring government-issued ID.
- 2 Parental Consent**
For users under 18, the app store must notify a parent or guardian and obtain verifiable approval before the download proceeds.
- 3 Risk Disclosure**
Parents receive clear, plain-language information about data collection practices, chat functions, and algorithmic features before consenting.
- 4 App Store Accountability**
Enforcement is placed on Apple and Google — the gatekeepers — not on parents or individual app developers.

WHY THE APP STORE APPROACH

Regulating apps one-by-one is unenforceable. Offshore developers, fast-moving AI companies, and new platforms can evade individual-app laws. App stores operate inside the United States and are fully within the reach of state law.

This approach is **comprehensive** (captures every app category), **scalable** (protects against tomorrow's platforms too), and **enforceable** (targets entities already operating under U.S. jurisdiction).

State Momentum, Key Policy Points & Objection Guide

STATE MOMENTUM

Five states. Real laws. Proven momentum.

The App Store Accountability Act has already been signed into law in four states, demonstrating bipartisan support and constitutional soundness.

Utah

SB 142 — Signed March 2025

Texas

SB 2420 — Signed May 2025

Louisiana

HB 570 — Signed June 2025

California

AB 1043 — Signed October 2025

Alabama

HB 161 — Signed February 17, 2026 by Governor Kay Ivey

Additional states are actively considering the bill. Model legislation is available to ensure consistency, constitutional soundness, and ease of adoption.

THREE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- 1 **Verification at the Gate**
Requires app stores to determine age status before distribution — using privacy-preserving methods, not government ID.
- 2 **Verifiable Parental Consent**
Mandates parent or guardian approval before a minor downloads an app or agrees to digital terms of service.
- 3 **Meaningful Risk Disclosure**
Requires clear presentation of known risks — data collection, chat features, and algorithmic exposure — before consent is given.

ADDRESSING COMMON OBJECTIONS

What this bill is NOT.

Does NOT ban apps or censor any lawful content.

Does NOT require children or parents to upload a government-issued ID.

Does NOT create a federal or state database of children's identities.

Does NOT tell parents how to raise their children — it gives them a seat at the table.

Does NOT place burdens on small app developers — requirements fall on the app stores.

Coalition Support

The App Store Accountability Act is backed by a growing national coalition of parents, child-safety advocates, medical professionals, and family policy organizations. It enjoys bipartisan legislative support and has been advanced by both Republican and Democratic sponsors across every state where it has passed.

Constitutional Soundness

The bill does not restrict speech or ban content. It applies to commercial transactions — app downloads — between minors and corporations. Courts have consistently upheld age-verification and parental-consent requirements for commercial transactions involving children.

Request Model Bill Language

Ready-to-introduce model legislation is available to ensure constitutional soundness and consistency with passed state laws.

appstoreact.org/for-lawmakers