

SB 351 – Protecting Georgia’s Children on Social Media Act

Summary:

This bill, the "Protecting Georgia's Children on Social Media Act of 2024," aims to enhance student safety and digital citizenship in Georgia's public schools. Key provisions include: - Requiring public schools to adopt acceptable-use policies and technology protection measures to block access to inappropriate online content, with oversight and potential funding withholding from the State Board of Education for noncompliance. - Mandating the Department of Education to develop model programs and training for educating students on safe and responsible social media and internet use. - Requiring local school boards to adopt social media policies that restrict student access to social media platforms through school equipment and technology. - Prohibiting social media platforms from allowing minors to have accounts without parental consent and requiring platforms to provide certain information to parents upon request. - Creating a civil remedy for damages against commercial entities that distribute material harmful to minors without performing age verification. The bill seeks to proactively address online safety concerns and promote digital citizenship among Georgia's students.