

By: González of El Paso, Patterson, et al.

H.B. No. 499

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a warning label on certain social media platforms concerning the association between a minor's social media usage and significant mental health issues.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 161, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Subchapter Z to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER Z. WARNING LABEL ON CERTAIN SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS
REGARDING MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES IN MINORS

Sec. 161.801. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter, "social media platform" and "user" have the meanings assigned by Section 120.001, Business & Commerce Code.

Sec. 161.8015. APPLICABILITY. (a) This subchapter applies only to a social media platform described by Section 120.002(b), Business & Commerce Code.

(b) This subchapter does not apply to a website or application used primarily for the purpose of interactive gaming.

Sec. 161.802. REQUIRED WARNING LABEL REGARDING MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES. (a) A social media platform operating in this state shall display on the platform's landing page each time a user opens the platform a warning label concerning the association between a minor's social media usage and significant mental health issues. The warning label must include:

(1) information on available resources for persons

1 experiencing significant mental health issues, including the phone
2 number or link to the website for the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline;
3 and

4 (2) a statement concerning the use of an individual's
5 personal data by social media platforms and the addictive nature of
6 social media usage.

7 (b) The social media platform shall ensure the user is
8 unable to operate the platform until the user verifies the user
9 understands the warning.

10 (c) The executive commissioner shall adopt evidence-based
11 rules regarding the form and content of the warning label required
12 by Subsection (a).

13 SECTION 2. (a) Not later than January 1, 2026, the executive
14 commissioner of the Health and Human Services Commission shall
15 adopt the rules required by Section 161.802, Health and Safety
16 Code, as added by this Act.

17 (b) A social media platform to which Subchapter Z, Chapter
18 161, Health and Safety Code, as added by this Act, applies is not
19 required to comply with Section 161.802, Health and Safety Code, as
20 added by this Act, before April 1, 2026.

21 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.