

RÉSUMÉ DIGEST

ACT 535 (HB 220)

2026 Regular Session

Schlegel

New law creates the "Platforms Reporting Online Trafficking, Enticement, and Exploitation of Children Timely" or "PROTECT" Act.

New law defines "clear and conspicuous", "covered platform", "online platform", "online video game", and "report mechanism".

New law requires that a covered platform that allows users to create, share, or view user-generated content provide clear and conspicuous instructions and a clear and conspicuous method for users to report suspected child sexual abuse material, or other instances of child sexual exploitation listed in existing law, appearing on or transmitted through the platform.

New law provides for the requirements of the reporting mechanism.

New law requires the covered platform to comply with provisions of federal law.

New law provides that any covered platform that does not provide a reporting mechanism as required by new law shall be subject to civil penalties.

New law allows the attorney general to conduct an investigation of the alleged violation and initiate a civil action in the 19th Judicial District Court for the parish of East Baton Rouge on behalf of the state to assess civil penalties. Prior to asserting a cause of action, the attorney general shall provide the commercial entity with a period of time of not less than 30 days to comply with new law.

New law provides that the covered platforms may be liable for certain civil penalties for violations of new law, to be assessed by the court, to be paid to the Dept. of Justice to fund the investigation of cybercrimes involving the exploitation of children.

New law allows each violation to be treated as a separate violation or to be combined into one violation at the option of the attorney general.

New law provides that any covered platform that violates new law may be liable to the attorney general for all costs, expenses, and fees related to investigations and proceedings associated with the violation, including attorney fees.

Effective August 1, 2026.

(Adds R.S. 51:1780.1-1780.3)