

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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March 3, 2026

MEMORANDUM

To: Members, Committee on Energy and Commerce
From: Committee on Energy and Commerce Majority Staff
Re: Full Committee Markup

I. INTRODUCTION

The Energy and Commerce Committee will hold a markup on Thursday, March 5, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. (ET) in 2123 Rayburn House Office Building, and subsequent days as necessary, to consider the following items:

- H.R. 7757, Kids Internet and Digital Safety (KIDS) Act (Rep. Guthrie)
- H.R. 2657, Sammy's Law (Reps. Wasserman Schultz and Carter-GA)
- H.R. 6291, Children and Teens' Online Privacy Protection Act (Reps. Walberg and Lee-FL)
- H.R. 3149, App Store Accountability Act (Rep. James)
- H.R. 7258, Energy Emergency Leadership Act (Reps. Lee-FL and Landsman)
- H.R. 7266, Rural and Municipal Utility Cybersecurity Act (Reps. Miller-Meeks and McClellan)
- H.R. 7257, Securing Community Upgrades for a Resilient Grid (SECURE Grid) Act (Reps. Latta and Matsui)
- H.R. 7272, Pipeline Cybersecurity Preparedness Act (Reps. Weber and Dingell)
- H.R. 7305, Energy Threat Analysis Center Act of 2026 (Reps. Castor and Evans)

II. LEGISLATION

A. H.R. 7757, KIDS Act (Rep. Guthrie)

This legislation provides comprehensive protections for children and teens online, with robust default safeguards, parental tools, privacy, and thorough accountability and enforcement mechanisms. This legislation contains multiple titles, subtitles, parts, and sections, as follows:

1. Title I: Shielding Minors From Obscenity

a. Shielding Children’s Retinas from Egregious Exposure on the Net Act (SCREEN)

This title requires all commercial pornographic websites to adopt and operate applicable technology verification measures to ensure that a child cannot access obscene content. Additionally, the title establishes data security requirements, prohibits pornographic websites from collecting data beyond what is minimally necessary to verify a user’s age, and forbids retaining information longer than is necessary to demonstrate compliance.

2. Title II: Addressing Harms to Minors on Online Platforms

a. Subtitle B: Kids Online Safety Act (KOSA)

This subtitle provides concrete safeguards through mandating covered platforms to prevent certain harms to minors. Covered platforms must provide easy-to-use safeguards for minors, and when a covered platform knows a user is a minor, the platform is required to ensure that the most protective safeguards are enabled by default. A covered platform must also provide tools for parents to help manage their child’s use of the platform, including safeguards that limit communication features, the recommendation of a minor’s profile to other users, compulsive usage, sharing of geolocation information, and algorithmic, personalized recommendation systems. A covered platform also must provide certain user disclosures and is prohibited from advertising illegal products to minors. This subtitle increases transparency for covered platforms by requiring them to submit an audited report to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) outlining minors’ use of their platform, use of safeguards and parental tools, data collection practices, and other information.

b. Subtitle C: Safe Messaging for Kids Act (SMK)

This subtitle prohibits covered platforms from offering disappearing messaging features on their platform for minors under the age of 17. The subtitle prohibits private messaging for children under the age of 13. The subtitle also requires parental controls, activated and managed by verifiable parental consent, and default settings for minors related to direct messaging features.

c. Subtitle D: Stop Profiling Youth and Kids Act (SPY Kids)

This subtitle prohibits covered platforms from knowingly conducting market or product-focused research on individuals under 13 and requires verifiable parental consent to conduct such research on individuals under 17.

3. Title III: Social Gaming Platforms

a. Safer Guarding of Adolescents from Malicious Interactions on Network Games Act (GAMING)

This title requires a provider of an interactive online video game to offer safeguards to the parent of a user who is under the age of 17. The safeguards provided must allow the parent to limit communication between the minor and other users, the recommendation of a minor's profile to other users, financial transactions by the minor, and the amount of time spent by the minor on the online video game. The communication safeguards must be enabled by default for minors to the most protective level of control, can only be disabled by the parent, and are able to be managed through a single interface.

4. Title IV: AI Chatbots

a. Safeguarding Adolescents From Exploitative Bots Act (SAFE Bots)

This title requires chatbot platforms that knowingly interact with minors to disclose, in age-appropriate language, that the chatbot is an artificial intelligence system, along with suicide and crisis intervention hotline information. The title prohibits chatbots from stating that they are licensed professionals. The title also directs chatbot platforms to establish and implement policies to prevent certain harms to minors. Finally, this title directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a longitudinal study on the effects of chatbots on the mental health of minors.

5. Title V: Research, Education, and Best Practices

a. Subtitle A: Research

i. Part 1 – Safe Social Media Act

This part directs the FTC and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to study how social media use impacts kids' privacy, mental health, and development, along with the impacts of extended social media use.

ii. Part 2 – No Fentanyl on Social Media Act

This part directs the FTC, in collaboration with the Department of Justice and HHS, to produce a report on the role of social media in enabling access to fentanyl by minors. The report would examine aspects of the issue ranging from the impact of this access to minors and how drug traffickers use social media to sell fentanyl, to the role design characteristics of social media platforms play in facilitating access, along with actions by social media companies, law enforcement, and others that could help to prevent access to fentanyl. The report also directs the FTC to consult with relevant stakeholders and provide recommendations for Congress.

iii. Part 3 – Assessing Safety Tools for Parents and Minors Act

This part directs the FTC to evaluate what is effectively working to protect children online through education, parental controls, age-appropriate content

labels, and privacy and safety settings. The FTC is required to submit a report to Congress on the review and include recommendations.

b. Subtitle B: Education

i. Part 1 – Promoting a Safe Internet for Minors Act

This part directs the FTC to conduct a nationwide education campaign to promote safe internet use by minors, including through encouraging best practices for educators, parents, platforms, and minors, facilitating information sharing on the latest trends negatively impacting minors online, and enabling access to publicly available online safety education and public awareness efforts. This part also requires the FTC to submit an annual report to Congress.

ii. Part 2 – AI Warnings and Resources for Education (AWARE) Act

This part directs the FTC to develop and make publicly available educational resources for parents, educators, and minors on privacy and data collection practices, best practices for parental supervision of minors' use of AI chatbots, and how to identify safe and unsafe AI chatbot use. The educational resources must be modeled on those developed by the FTC's Youville program.

c. Subtitle C: Partnerships and Best Practices

i. Kids Internet Safety Partnership Act

This subtitle directs the Secretary of Commerce to form a partnership with Federal agencies and stakeholders to identify online harms to minors and share evidence-based solutions for keeping children safe. The Partnership is directed to publish a report on the efficacy of safeguards for minors and parental tools used by online services and mobile applications, along with a playbook of widely accepted or evidence-based best practices related to age verification, assurance, and estimation techniques; design features; parental tools; default privacy and account settings; third-party safety software services; and limitations and opt-outs related to personalized recommendation systems and chatbots.

6. Title VI: General Provisions

This title provides general provisions for the entire Act, including enforcement by the FTC and State Attorneys General, judicial review and exclusive jurisdiction, severability, effective date, and rules of construction.

B. H. R. 2657, Sammy's Law (Reps. Wasserman Schultz and Carter-GA)

This legislation requires large social media platform providers to create, maintain, and make available to third-party safety software providers a set of real-time application programming interfaces, through which a child or a child's parent or legal guardian may delegate permission to a third-party safety software provider to manage the child's online

interactions, content, and account settings and provide visibility into the child's online engagement. Third-party safety software providers are required to register with the FTC, receive annual audits, take measures to protect a child's data, and they are prohibited from selling data collected by the third-party safety software provider.

C. H.R. 6291, Children and Teens' Online Privacy Protection Act (Reps. Walberg and Lee-FL)

This legislation amends the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 to strengthen protections relating to the online collection, use, and disclosure of personal information of children and teens. Additionally, the legislation bans targeted advertising to kids and teens and require direct notice if data is being stored or transferred to a foreign adversary.

D. H.R. 3149, App Store Accountability Act (Rep. James)

This legislation requires app store providers to request age information from individuals at the time of account creation, verify the individual's age, and, if that individual is a minor, obtain verifiable parental consent from the affiliated parental account to download apps or make in-app purchases. This legislation places additional requirements on app store providers, which include protecting the confidentiality of personal data and prominently displaying any age rating information. The legislation also establishes requirements for app developers to verify the age category of potential users, confirm whether verifiable parental consent was obtained, and notify an app store provider of significant changes to their app.

The legislation provides options for developers to signal to an app store that they do not want minors downloading their app at all, and allows a developer to rely on their own age determination if they have clear and convincing evidence that their age signal is more accurate than the app store signal. This legislation directs the FTC to issue guidance on compliance and certification. A violation of the bill is treated and enforced as an "unfair or deceptive act or practice" by the FTC and subject to enforcement by state attorneys general.

E. H.R. 7258, Energy Emergency Leadership Act (Reps. Lee-FL and Landsman)

This legislation would amend the Department of Energy Organization Act to include energy emergency and energy security among the functions that the Secretary of Energy shall assign to an Assistant Secretary. The legislation provides that the functions assigned to an Assistant Secretary under this amendment would include responsibilities with respect to energy infrastructure, security and resilience, emerging threats, cybersecurity, supply and emergency planning, coordination, response, and restoration and would include the provision of technical assistance, support, and response capabilities with respect to energy security threats, risks, and incidents to State, local, and Tribal governments and the energy sector. The legislation provides that the Secretary of Energy shall ensure the functions under this amendment are performed in coordination with relevant Federal agencies. Substantially similar legislation passed the House in the 116th, 117th, and 118th Congresses.

F. H.R. 7266, Rural and Municipal Utility Cybersecurity Act (Reps. Miller-Meeks and McClellan)

This legislation would reauthorize the Rural and Municipal Utility Advanced Cybersecurity (RMUC) Grant and Technical Assistance Program, authorized in section 40124 of the IIJA,¹ through October 31, 2031. The program provides technical and financial assistance to eligible entities, which include rural electric cooperatives, municipally owned utilities, and small investor-owned utilities, to protect and harden the systems against cyber threats and to increase participation in cybersecurity threat information sharing programs. The legislation also amends the underlying statute to streamline financial assistance application processes to ensure funding is allocated to small and rural entities that need it most. This legislation was amended during the subcommittee markup to align authorization years with current budget cycle.

G. H.R. 7257, Securing Community Upgrades for a Resilient Grid (SECURE Grid) Act (Reps. Latta and Matsui)

This legislation would amend requirements for State Energy Security Plans, authorized by section 366 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act, to consider threats to local distribution alongside bulk-power systems, as well as supply chain and weather-related threats and vulnerabilities. The legislation also requires coordination with suppliers of manufactured components and infrastructure in the electric grid to improve understanding of supply chain risks. The legislation would also clarify that the Department of Energy is not required to approve State Energy Security Plans.

H. H.R. 7272, Pipeline Cybersecurity Preparedness Act (Reps. Weber and Dingell)

This legislation would require the Secretary of Energy, pursuant to the Secretary's statutory authorities, to carry out a program that improves coordination among Federal agencies, States, and the energy sector to ensure the security, resiliency, and survivability of natural gas pipelines, hazardous liquid pipelines, and liquefied natural gas (LNG) facilities. The program would establish policies and procedures that improve the coordination of analysis and information sharing; lead coordination of responses to and recovery from physical and cyber incidents impacting the energy sector; develop for voluntary use cybersecurity applications, technologies, and analytical tools; perform pilot demonstration projects with the energy sector; and establish workforce development and security curricula for such pipelines and LNG facilities.

The legislation does not provide new regulatory authority and further provides that it shall not be construed to modify the authority of any other Federal agency other than DOE with respect to natural gas pipelines, hazardous liquid pipelines, and LNG facilities. Substantially similar legislation was reported favorably by the Committee in the 115th, 116th, and 117th Congresses.

¹ 42 U.S.C. § 18723.

I. H.R. 7305, Energy Threat Analysis Center Act of 2026 (Reps. Castor and Evans)

This legislation would reauthorize the DOE program authorized in section 40125(c) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA),² which established an Energy Threat Analysis Center. The legislation would reauthorize the program through 2031. In addition, the legislation provides clarifying language for carrying out the program, relating to collaboration and intelligence sharing between the Federal government and the energy sector to strengthen collective defense, response, and resilience.

III. STAFF CONTACTS

If you have questions regarding this hearing, please contact Committee staff at (202) 225-3641.

² 42 U.S.C. § 18724(c).