

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

NO. 3
Session of 2022

INTRODUCED BY _____ April 21, 2022

REFERRED TO SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Social Media Moderation of Political Speech

An Act prohibiting social media companies that provide their services in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania from banning elected officials and candidates running for political office from their platforms and requiring they publish statistics relevant to the study of the effects of censorship of social media, especially on minorities and communities with less access to social media.

Section (1). Requirements: No sitting elected official or candidate running for state or federal elected office may be banned or “de-platformed” from social media sites except in cases of clear violations of rules related to child or domestic abuse, sexual abuse, actionable calls for violence, and such speech as is currently exempted from protections under the 1st Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

The same companies are required to release yearly statistics accounting for user bans, including demographic data related to race, gender, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, and political party affiliation. The Attorney General of Pennsylvania shall conduct a bi-annual audit and provide a report to the General Assembly detailing compliance and an assessment of the social impact inferred from the data along with recommendations to improve transparency.

Section (2). Penalties: Companies that violate any provisions of this Act, after a grace period of 5 business days, will be fined an amount no less than \$15,000.00 per day and no greater than \$30,000.00 per day until either the account associated with the ban is restored or the statistics being withheld are released.

Section (3). This Act shall take effect in 60 days.