

HOUSE BILL 1253

By Sexton J

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4;  
Title 5; Title 6; Title 7; Title 8; Title 47 and Title 48,  
relative to social media.

WHEREAS, utilizing social media platforms that limit or censor free speech is a tacit acceptance of that practice, which is a violation of the Tennessee Constitution, Article I, Section 19; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 1, Part 4, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) A state agency shall not use a social media platform to communicate information to or receive information from the public if the social media platform engages in the censorship of the free speech of a person or group of persons, the basis for which is rooted in political ideology, viewpoint discrimination, or personal animus.

(b) As used in this section:

(1) "Social media" means an electronic medium that allows users to create and view user-generated content, including, but not limited to, uploaded or downloaded videos, photographs or internet links, posts, blogs, audio files, instant messages, or emails; and

(2) "State agency" means each state department, board, commission, committee, office, or other unit of state government.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.