

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DPI 9/30/2021

LRB Number	21-4301/1	Introduction Number	SB-582	Estimate Type	Original
Description prohibiting state agency employees, state elected officials, federal government agency employees, and certain state individuals holding a national office from influencing social media Internet sites to censor users and providing a penalty					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

Under current law there is no state law that prohibits censoring, deplatforming, shadow banning, by a person who is holding a Wisconsin elected/appointed office or is a state employee.

This bill prohibits state agency employees and state elected officials from influencing or attempting to influence a social media Internet site to censor, deplatform, or shadow ban users on the social media Internet site. The prohibition also applies to a U.S. senator or representative of congress elected to his or her office in this state and to federal government agency employees present in this state.

The bill defines "deplatforming" as deleting or banning a user from a social media Internet site for more than 60 days and defines "shadow banning" as limiting or eliminating the exposure of a user, or content posted by or about a user, to other users. The penalty for each violation of the bill's prohibitions is a forfeiture between \$1,000 and \$10,000.

The bill refers to individuals being penalized with fines, it is not clear whether or not these costs would or could be fined to the organization on behalf of the individual.

State: Indeterminate

It is indeterminate what fiscal effect this proposed bill would have on DPI operations.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications
