

Wayne A. Harper proposes the following substitute bill:

**Data Sharing Amendments**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Doug Fiefia**

Senate Sponsor: Michael K. McKell

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill modifies provisions related to social media data portability and interoperability.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ allows users to select portions of their social media data to transfer;
- ▶ requires social media platforms to share user data in real time when users move to other platforms;
- ▶ requires consent from users before their comments or interactions can be included when others transfer data;
- ▶ clarifies when users must give permission for their data to be shared; and
- ▶ protects social media companies from penalties for temporary technical problems if they make good faith efforts to fix them.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

This bill provides a special effective date.

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

- 13-81-101** [~~Effective 07/01/26~~] (Effective 07/01/27), as enacted by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 468
- 13-81-102** [~~Effective 07/01/26~~] (Effective 07/01/27), as enacted by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 468
- 13-81-201** [~~Effective 07/01/26~~] (Effective 07/01/27), as enacted by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 468
- 13-81-202** [~~Effective 07/01/26~~] (Effective 07/01/27), as enacted by Laws of Utah 2025,

29 Chapter 468

30 **13-81-301 (Effective 07/01/27)**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 468

31 **13-81-401 [~~(Effective 07/01/26)~~ (Effective 07/01/27)]**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2025,  
32 Chapter 468

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34 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

35 Section 1. Section **13-81-101** is amended to read:

36 **13-81-101 [~~(Effective 07/01/26)~~ (Effective 07/01/27)]. Definitions.**

37 As used in this chapter:

38 (1) "Open protocol" means a publicly available technical standard that:

39 (a) enables interoperability and data exchange between social media services by  
40 providing a common data infrastructure where multiple social media services can  
41 access~~[-, contribute to, and synchronize]~~ a user's personal data;

42 (b) is free from:

43 (i) licensing fees; and

44 (ii) patent restrictions; and

45 (c) governs how social media services communicate and exchange data with each other.

46 (2)(a) "Personal data" means the same as that term is defined in Section 13-61-101.

47 (b) "Personal data" includes a user's social graph.

48 (3)(a) "Social graph" means data, or a user-selected portion of data, that represents a  
49 person's connections and interactions within a social media service.

50 (b) "Social graph" includes:

51 (i) the person's social connections with other users;

52 (ii) content created by the person;

53 (iii) the person's responses to other users' content, including comments, reactions, [  
54 ~~and]~~ mentions, reposts, shares, and other engagements;

55 [~~(iv) other users' responses to the person's content; and]~~

56 [~~(v)] (iv) metadata associated with the items described in Subsections (3)(b)(i)  
57 through [~~(iv)] (iii)[-] ; and~~~~

58 (v) relational references sufficient to maintain the associations among data elements  
59 described in Subsections (3)(b)(i) through (iii).

60 (c) "Social graph" does not include another user's or an entity's content and responses  
61 that have been designated private by those users and entities, including private  
62 messages.

- 63 (4) "Social media company" means an entity that owns or operates a social media service.  
 64 (5)(a) "Social media service" means a public website or application that:  
 65 (i) displays content that is primarily generated by account holders and not by the  
 66 social media company;  
 67 (ii) permits an individual to register as an account holder and create a profile that is  
 68 made visible to the general public or a set of other users defined by the account  
 69 holder;  
 70 (iii) connects account holders to allow users to interact socially with each other  
 71 within the website or application;  
 72 (iv) makes available to each account holder a list or lists of other account holders  
 73 with whom the account holder shares a connection within the system; and  
 74 ~~[(iv)]~~ (v) allows account holders to post content viewable by other users.  
 75 (b) "Social media service" does not include:  
 76 (i) email;  
 77 (ii) cloud storage; or  
 78 (iii) document viewing, sharing, or collaboration services.  
 79 (6) "User" means an individual located in the state who accesses or uses a social media  
 80 service.

81 Section 2. Section **13-81-102** is amended to read:

82 **13-81-102** [~~(Effective 07/01/26)~~] (Effective 07/01/27). **Legislative findings.**

83 The Legislature finds that:

- 84 (1) an individual has a right to control and move the individual's own personal data,  
 85 including social interactions online;  
 86 (2) companies have demonstrated a pattern of restricting the interoperability of content,  
 87 preventing users from easily sharing posts and interactions across different platforms,  
 88 reducing effective consumer choice, and stifling market competition; and  
 89 (3) the state should ensure that individuals have the right to access a complete personal data  
 90 record in a portable format from social media platforms.

91 Section 3. Section **13-81-201** is amended to read:

92 **13-81-201** [~~(Effective 07/01/26)~~] (Effective 07/01/27). **Data portability**  
 93 **requirements.**

- 94 If a consumer requests a copy of the consumer's personal data under Section 13-61-201,  
 94a a  
 95 social media service shall within five business days provide the personal data, including the

96 user's social graph, in a format that:

97 (1) is portable, to the extent technically feasible;

98 (2) is readily usable, to the extent practicable; and

99 (3) allows the consumer to transmit the data to another controller without impediment if the  
100 controller processes the data by automated means.

101 Section 4. Section **13-81-202** is amended to read:

102 **13-81-202** [~~(Effective 07/01/26)~~] (Effective 07/01/27). **Data interoperability**  
103 **requirements.**

104 (1) A social media company shall implement a transparent, third-party-accessible  
105 interoperability interface or interfaces to allow users to choose to:

106 (a) share a common set of the user's personal data or a user-selected part of the user's  
107 personal data between the social media services designated by the user; and

108 (b) enable third parties to access [~~content~~] personal data created by the user and to be  
109 notified when new or updated [~~content~~] personal data is available, with the user's  
110 permission.

111 (2) A social media company shall reasonably secure all personal data obtained through an  
112 interoperability interface.

113 (3) To achieve interoperability under Subsection (1), a social media company shall:

114 (a) utilize an open protocol;

115 (b) facilitate and maintain interoperability and [~~synchrouous~~] continuous, real-time data  
116 sharing with other social media services through an interoperability interface, based  
117 on reasonable terms that do not discriminate between social media services;

118 (c) establish reasonable and proportionate thresholds related to the frequency, nature,  
119 and volume of requests, beyond which the social media company may assess a  
120 reasonable fee for such access; and

121 [~~(d) offer to other social media companies a functionally equivalent version of any~~  
122 ~~internal interfaces created by the social media company for the social media~~  
123 ~~company's own social media services; and]~~

124 [(e)] (d) disclose to other social media companies complete, accurate, and regularly  
125 updated documentation describing access to the interoperability interface required  
126 under this section.

127 (4) A social media company shall publicly disclose the open protocol that the social media  
128 company intends to use for purposes of Subsection (3)(a).

129 [(4)] (5) A social media company or third party shall safeguard the privacy and security of a

- 130 user's personal data obtained from other social media services through the  
 131 interoperability interface in accordance with the social media company's or third party's  
 132 privacy notice and administrative, technical, and physical data security practices.
- 133 ~~[(5)]~~ (6) A social media company or third party may not share or receive a user's personal  
 134 data through the interoperability interface except with the user's consent, including when  
 135 a user's personal data is intended to be shared in response to another user's request to  
 136 share a social graph.
- 137 ~~[(6)]~~ (7)(a) A social media company shall adopt an accessible, prominent, and persistent  
 138 method for users to give consent for data sharing with other social media services or  
 139 third parties through the interoperability interface.
- 140 (b) The method described in Subsection (7)(a) shall allow users to provide consent:
- 141 (i) when the user initiates a transfer of the user's own personal data; and  
 142 (ii) before the user's personal data is shared as part of another user's social graph.
- 143 (c) A social media company shall implement the user's consent decisions within five  
 144 business days.
- 145 ~~[(7)]~~ (8) A social media company is not required to:
- 146 (a) provide access to:
- 147 (i) inferences, analyses, or derived data that the social media company has generated  
 148 internally about a user; or
- 149 (ii) proprietary algorithms, ranking systems, or other internal operating mechanisms;  
 150 or
- 151 (b) transmit personal data that:
- 152 (i) is stored or structured in a proprietary format; and
- 153 (ii) meets both of the following criteria:
- 154 (A) no open, industry-standard format is reasonably available; and
- 155 (B) transmitting the data would disclose information described in Subsection [  
 156 ~~(7)(a)]~~ (8)(a).
- 157 ~~[(8)]~~ (9) This chapter does not apply to an entity that is:
- 158 (a) owned, controlled, operated, or maintained by a religious organization; and
- 159 (b) exempt from property taxation under state law.
- 160 Section 5. Section **13-81-301** is amended to read:
- 161 **13-81-301 (Effective 07/01/27). Rulemaking authority -- Rebuttable presumption**  
 162 **-- Safe harbor.**
- 163 (1) The division may identify open protocols that the division has determined, after an

- 164 assessment, meet the requirements of Section 13-81-202.
- 165 (2) If a social media company uses an open protocol that the division identifies under  
166 Subsection (1), the social media company shall be entitled to a rebuttable presumption of  
167 providing access on reasonable terms that do not discriminate between social media  
168 services.
- 169 (3) A social media company does not violate Section 13-81-202 for a temporary loss of  
170 continuous real-time data sharing if the social media company demonstrates that:
- 171 (a) the social media company made good faith efforts to maintain continuous real-time  
172 data sharing; and
- 173 (b) the social media company took reasonable steps to restore data sharing as soon as  
174 practicable.
- 175 (4) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to require a social media company to receive  
176 data through an interoperability interface.

177 Section 6. Section **13-81-401** is amended to read:

178 **13-81-401** [~~Effective 07/01/26~~] (Effective 07/01/27). **Severability.**

- 179 (1) If any provision of this chapter or the application of any provision to any person or  
180 circumstance is held invalid by a final decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, the  
181 remainder of this chapter shall be given effect without the invalid provision or  
182 application.
- 183 (2) The provisions of this chapter are severable.

184 Section 7. **Effective Date.**

185 This bill takes effect on July 1, 2027.