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## SENATE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Senator Anthony Portantino, Chair  
2021 - 2022 Regular Session

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### SB 1018 (Pan) - Platform Accountability and Transparency Act

**Version:** May 2, 2022

**Urgency:** No

**Hearing Date:** May 19, 2022

**Policy Vote:** JUD. 9 - 2

**Mandate:** No

**Consultant:** Matthew Fleming

**Bill Summary:** SB 1018 would require social media platforms to make annual public disclosures relating to the content on the platform, their use of algorithms and metrics, and their content moderation efforts. A violation of this provision would be subject to a civil penalty of up to \$100,000 in an action brought by the Attorney General.

### \*\*\*\*\* ANALYSIS ADDENDUM – SUSPENSE FILE \*\*\*\*\*

The following information is revised to reflect amendments  
adopted by the committee on May 19, 2022

**Fiscal Impact:** The Department of Justice (DOJ), reports ongoing costs of \$221,000 in FY 2022-23, and \$388,000 in FY 2023-24 and ongoing, to enforce the provisions of SB 1018 (General Fund). Unknown cost pressures resulting from increased workload on the courts to adjudicate filings generated by the provisions of this bill (Trial Court Trust Fund, General Fund).

**Committee Amendments:** Delete the requirement that social media platforms the following information with respect to its use of algorithms and metrics:

- A description of all product features that made use of algorithms during the previous calendar year.
- A summary of signals and features used as inputs to the algorithms referred to in paragraph (1), including an explanation of all user data incorporated into these inputs ranked or based on the significance of their impact on the algorithms' outputs.
- A summary of data-driven models, including those based on machine learning or other artificial intelligence techniques, utilized in the described algorithms, including the optimization objective of those models ranked based on the significance of their impact on the algorithms' outputs.
- A summary of metrics used by the platform to score or rank content ranked based on the significance of their impact on the algorithms' outputs.
- A summary of metrics calculated by the platform operator to assess product changes or new features with an assessment of their relative importance in platform decisionmaking.

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