

SB 648 Is a Bad Law Wrapped in a Good Intention

New Hampshire's SB 648 claims to protect kids, but what it really does is bulldoze the First Amendment in the name of political theater. Forcing adults to upload government IDs just to view legal content is not "protecting families" — it's building the scaffolding for a permission-based internet. Courts across the country have already slapped down nearly identical laws because they chill lawful speech and treat every adult like a minor until proven otherwise. When a state starts demanding identification before you can read, watch, or think, that's not safety. That's surveillance dressed up as morality.

And let's be honest: the privacy risks alone should make this bill a non-starter. SB 648 would funnel millions of people into third-party age-verification systems that collect and transmit some of the most sensitive data a person has — their government ID. Even if the law says "don't store it," the exposure happens the moment you upload it. One breach, one leak, one sloppy vendor, and the damage is irreversible. Meanwhile, any teenager with a VPN will bypass the whole system in ten seconds. SB 648 doesn't protect kids. It just forces adults to trade their privacy for access to legal speech while doing nothing to solve the problem it claims to address.