

The Marketplace Monitor - Issue 13!

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Hello and welcome to this week's holiday edition of the Marketplace Monitor!

Enjoy reading!

AMERICAN STATES



Photo credit: Ohio State Legislature, Courtesy of Canva Commons.

Ohio Lawmakers Ban Sextortion and Grooming of Children

Ohio lawmakers have passed legislation criminalizing sexual extortion and grooming of children, with <u>House Bill 531</u> making sextortion a third-degree felony and House <u>Bill 322</u> prohibiting adults from engaging minors in coercive conduct. The bills, named for Braden Markus, aim to protect children from predatory behaviors and ensure offenders face significant penalties.

Read more here.

Michigan Privacy Legislation Advances

In Michigan's 'lame duck' session, the Senate has passed two significant privacy bills: <u>SB 659</u>, which includes a novel data minimization standard inspired by California and Maryland laws, and <u>SB 1082</u>, the Reproductive Health Data Privacy Act, which has been amended to exclude aggregated and de-identified data, add new permissible purposes for data processing, and establish service provider requirements. SB 659 limits personal data collection to what is necessary and proportionate for providing requested services, while SB 1082 focuses on stricter data minimization provisions for reproductive care data. These legislative efforts highlight Michigan's commitment to enhancing privacy protections for its residents.

Read more <u>here</u>.

New York Continues to Lead in Youth Online Safety

In 2024, New York State enacted the <u>SAFE For Kids Act</u> and <u>New York Child Data Protection Act</u>, both currently undergoing rulemaking. On November 20, the <u>New York Children's Online Safety Act</u> was introduced for the 2025 session, aiming to restrict interactions between minors and unconnected users on online gaming and social media platforms, with parental consent required for any exceptions, and mandating "commercially reasonable age verification" of all users.

Read more here.



Photo credit: New York State Legislature by Matt H. Wade, courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Texas Attorney General Launches First TDPSA Enforcement Actions

On December 12, Texas Attorney General Paxton <u>announced</u> investigations into 15 companies under the <u>Texas Data Privacy and Security Act</u> (TDPSA) and the <u>Securing Children Online through Parental</u> <u>Empowerment (SCOPE) Act</u>, focusing on minors' privacy and safety practices. Following public records obtained by <u>Suzanne Marie Smalley</u>, five "notices of violations" were issued for various disclosure deficiencies and mishandling of sensitive data, emphasizing the importance of transparent privacy notices.

See more <u>here</u> and <u>here</u>.

Texas Introduces Landmark AI Governance Act

State Representative Giovanni Capriglione filed <u>HB 1709</u>, the Texas Responsible Artificial Intelligence Governance Act (TRAIGA), establishing a comprehensive framework for ethical Al development and oversight. The bill addresses transparency, accountability, ethical use, data privacy protections, workforce development, and protections from censorship, positioning Texas as a leader in responsible Al innovation.

Read more <u>here</u>.



Photo credit: Rep. Capriglione on the House floor by Patrick Michels for the Texas Observer.

AMERICAN NATIONAL

Government Shutdown Averted as Biden Signs Funding Bill

President Biden signed legislation passed by Congress to prevent a government shutdown, with the bill approved just before the deadline. The focus now shifts to Speaker Mike Johnson's future, as the House prepares for a critical vote on his position in early January.

Read more <u>here</u>.

Senators Pressure House to Pass Online Safety, Privacy Package

A bipartisan group of senators is urging the House to pass the <u>Kids Online Safety and Privacy Act</u> (KOSPA) before the end of the year, emphasizing the need to protect children from the harms of social media and online platforms.

Read more <u>here</u>.

Supreme Court to Decide Fate of TikTok

The Supreme Court has agreed to hear TikTok's challenge to a law requiring it to be sold or face a ban in the U.S., with arguments focusing on whether the law violates the First Amendment by infringing on free speech rights.

Read more.



Photo credit: The European Commission, courtesy of Wikipedia Commons By Thennicke

INTERNATIONAL

Amazon Faces Potential EU Antitrust Investigation

Amazon.com, Inc. (AMZN) is under scrutiny for potential antitrust violations in the EU, which could result in significant fines. The investigation focuses on Amazon's marketplace practices and their compliance with competition laws.

Read more here.

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