

Act of 2025
on the protection of children against the harmful effects of digital devices

[1] The protection of future generations is a shared responsibility of the nation. The rapid development of digitalisation poses new challenges and the National Assembly seeks to reduce the dangers that are associated with digital tools.

[2] Children's healthy development is a central value for both the society and families. The spread of digital devices may also pose new dangers for the youngest members of the society. Research shows that the excessive use of digital devices can have an extremely detrimental effect on children's neurological development, as well as their social skills and emotional condition. Therefore, the purpose of this law is to lay down appropriate measures for the protection of children in the digital space, bearing in mind parental responsibility.

[3] In view of the above objectives and principles, the National Assembly hereby enacts the following Act:

Section 1

In Section 16/A of Act CLV of 1997 on consumer protection (hereinafter: Consumer Protection Act), a paragraph (8) shall be inserted with the following wording:

‘8) When selling goods which contain digital elements that have been specified in the decree of the Minister responsible for consumer protection, the distributor is obliged to display the text “Not recommended for use by children under 6 years of age!” in a clearly visible place, as specified in the decree of the Minister responsible for consumer protection.’

Section 2

The following paragraph 4a is added to Section 55 in the Consumer Protection Act:

‘(4a) The Minister responsible for consumer protection is hereby authorised to lay down by decree, in agreement with the Minister responsible for the protection of children and young people and with the Minister responsible for health, the rules for the publication of the information referred to in Section 16/A, paragraph (8) and the scope of “goods with digital elements” as defined in Directive (EU) 2019/770 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 May 2019 on certain aspects concerning contracts for the supply of digital content and digital services.’

Section 3

In Section 60 of the Consumer Protection Act, the words ‘paragraph 1a and Section 55(5)’ are replaced by the words ‘paragraphs 1a and 8 and Section 55(4a) and (5)’.

Section 4

This Act comes into force on 1 January 2026.

Section 5

The requirement for the prior notification of this draft Act, as stipulated in Articles 5 to 7 of Directive (EU) 2015/1535 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 September 2015 laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical regulations and of rules on Information Society services, has been met.

General explanation

The rapid spread of digital devices presents us with new challenges: more and more children use smart phones, tablets or other screen-based devices on a daily basis, already from an early age. Numerous research confirms that the excessive use of screens, especially when under three years of age, has a highly detrimental effect on children's neurological development, their ability to sustain focus, their self-regulation of emotions and social development, as well as their social relationships. Children coming into contact with digital devices may end up with access to dangerous online content.

That is why, in order to protect the physical, mental, spiritual and social health of future generations, it is important to protect the younger generations from the dangers of 21st-century digital technology.

Therefore, for children's protection in the digital space, as a next step, this law obliges distributors of digital devices (such as smart phones, laptops, desktop computers, tablets, TV equipment for digital TV services, e-readers, game consoles, VR headsets and smart watches) to display a warning notice highlighting the adverse effects on young children. The information notice must be displayed in all types of sales, not only in shops but also on electronic platforms used for online sales.

This explanation shall be published in the Register of Statements, as an annex to the Official Gazette of Hungary, in accordance with Section 18(6) of Act CXXX of 2010 on law-making and Section 20 of IM Decree No 5/2019 of 13 March of the Ministry of Justice on the publication of the Hungarian Official Gazette and its designation during the promulgation of laws and the publication of public law regulatory instruments.

Detailed explanation

Section 1

In order to achieve the objectives set out in the general explanation, it is necessary to lay down rules for the information notice with regard to the sale of digital goods, including sales within the framework of electronic commerce services.

Section 2

Detailed rules on the placement of the information notice and its features will be laid down in a ministerial decree.

Section 3

Clarifications in the form of text replacement to supplement the notification clause.

Section 4

Enacting provision.

Section 5

A supplement associated with the requirement of prior notification according Articles 5-7 of Directive (EU) 2015/1535 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 September 2015 laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical regulations and of rules on Information Society Services.