Montana Lawmakers Seek to Protect Citizens from Bias of Big Tech

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On March 2, the Montana House of Representatives nearly passed a bill that would have allowed the state to regulate social-media infringements on freedom of speech. Companies such as Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter would have been subjected to oversight and scrutiny by the Montana Public Service Commission that already regulates public utilities, railroads, energy companies, and other key industries. The measure failed by one vote. Public Service Commissioner Randall Pinocci was outraged that some "RINO Republicans" joined Democrats to kill the bill by a single vote. He said the bill was not introduced just to help Montana but to set a precedent for other states as well. There is still is a possibility of re-introducing the bill in a slightly different way for the Montana Senate. -GEG

Montana lawmakers and policymakers took their first big shot at "Big Tech" in what supporters described as an effort to stop and punish censorship and discrimination against social-media users.

The first shot missed, but not by much. And if officials who spoke with The Epoch Times are right, the state's war against what many legislators view as abuse by Silicon Valley is just getting started.

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Under the legislation, known as House Bill 573, companies such as Facebook and YouTube would have been subjected to oversight and scrutiny by the Montana Public Service Commission. Multiple commissioners, elected to regulate utilities and other interests, expressed support for the effort.

Lawmakers also stressed the significance of the plan, describing the bill as a necessary measure to protect the rights of Montanans from unaccountable corporate giants with what

a number of legislators described as "extreme" political biases.

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