

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 774

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to restore freedom of speech to the Internet and to protect children from unsuitable online material.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 13, 1997

Ms. LOFGREN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to restore freedom of speech to the Internet and to protect children from unsuitable online material.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Internet Freedom and
5 Child Protection Act of 1997”.

6 **SEC. 2. INTERNET ACCESS PROVIDERS REQUIRED TO MAKE**
7 **SCREENING SOFTWARE AVAILABLE.**

8 Section 223 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47
9 U.S.C. 223) is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (a)(1)—

1 (A) by striking subparagraph (B); and

2 (B) by redesignating subparagraphs (C)
3 through (E) as subparagraphs (B) through (D),
4 respectively;

5 (2) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the
6 following:

7 “(d) OBLIGATIONS OF INTERNET ACCESS PROVID-
8 ERS.—

9 “(1) ACCESS PROVIDER OBLIGATION.—An
10 Internet access provider shall, at the time of enter-
11 ing an agreement with a customer for the provision
12 of Internet access services, offer such customer, ei-
13 ther for a fee or at no charge, screening software
14 that is designed to permit the customer to limit ac-
15 cess to material that is unsuitable for children.

16 “(2) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this sub-
17 section:

18 “(A) INTERNET.—The term ‘Internet’
19 means the international computer network of
20 both Federal and non-Federal interoperable
21 packet switched data networks.

22 “(B) INTERNET ACCESS PROVIDER.—The
23 term ‘Internet access provider’ means a person
24 engaged in the business of providing a com-
25 puter and communications facility through

1 which a customer may obtain access to the
2 Internet, but does not include a common carrier
3 to the extent that it provides only transmission
4 and routing services.

5 “(C) INTERNET ACCESS SERVICES.—The
6 term ‘Internet access services’ means the provi-
7 sion of computer and communications services
8 through which a customer using a computer
9 and a modem or other communications device
10 may obtain access to the Internet, but does not
11 include transmission and routing services pro-
12 vided by a common carrier.”; and

13 (3) by striking subsections (e) through (h).

14 **SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATES.**

15 The amendments made by section 2 of this Act are
16 effective on the date of enactment of this Act, except that
17 the requirements of section 223(d) of the Communications
18 Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 223(d)) as amended by section
19 2 shall be effective 6 months after such date of enactment.

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