

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 368

To require the installation of a system for filtering or blocking matter on the Internet on computers in schools and libraries with Internet access, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 19, 1999

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

A BILL

To require the installation of a system for filtering or blocking matter on the Internet on computers in schools and libraries with Internet access, and for other purposes.

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 “Safe Schools Internet
5 Act of 1999”.

1 **SEC. 2. NO UNIVERSAL SERVICE FOR SCHOOLS OR LIBRAR-**
2 **IES THAT FAIL TO IMPLEMENT A FILTERING**
3 **OR BLOCKING SYSTEM FOR COMPUTERS**
4 **WITH INTERNET ACCESS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 254 of the Communica-
6 tions Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 254) is amended by adding
7 at the end thereof the following:

8 “(1) IMPLEMENTATION OF A FILTERING OR BLOCK-
9 ING SYSTEM.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—No services may be pro-
11 vided under subsection (h)(1)(B) to any elementary
12 or secondary school, or any library, unless it pro-
13 vides the certification required by paragraph (2) or
14 (3), respectively.

15 “(2) CERTIFICATION FOR SCHOOLS.—Before re-
16 ceiving universal service assistance under subsection
17 (h)(1)(B), an elementary or secondary school (or the
18 school board or other authority with responsibility
19 for administration of that school) shall certify to the
20 Commission that it has—

21 “(A) selected a system for computers with
22 Internet access to filter or block matter deemed
23 to be inappropriate for minors; and

24 “(B) installed, or will install as soon as it
25 obtains computers with Internet access, a sys-
26 tem to filter or block such matter.

1 “(3) CERTIFICATION FOR LIBRARIES.—Before
2 receiving universal service assistance under sub-
3 section (h)(1)(B), a library that has a computer with
4 Internet access shall certify to the Commission that,
5 on one or more of its computers with Internet ac-
6 cess, it employs a system to filter or block matter
7 deemed to be inappropriate for minors. If a library
8 that makes a certification under this paragraph
9 changes the system it employs or ceases to employ
10 any such system, it shall notify the Commission
11 within 10 days after implementing the change or
12 ceasing to employ the system.

13 “(4) LOCAL DETERMINATION OF CONTENT.—
14 For purposes of paragraphs (2) and (3), the deter-
15 mination of what matter is inappropriate for minors
16 shall be made by the school, school board, library or
17 other authority responsible for making the required
18 certification. No agency or instrumentality of the
19 United States Government may—

20 “(A) establish criteria for making that de-
21 termination;

22 “(B) review the determination made by the
23 certifying school, school board, library, or other
24 authority; or

1 “(C) consider the criteria employed by the
2 certifying school, school board, library, or other
3 authority in the administration of subsection
4 (h)(1)(B).”.

5 (b) CONFORMING CHANGE.—Section 254(h)(1)(B) of
6 the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C.
7 254(h)(1)(B)) is amended by striking “All telecommuni-
8 cations” and inserting “Except as provided by subsection
9 (l), all telecommunications”.

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