

106TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1545

To require schools and libraries receiving universal service assistance to install systems or implement policies for blocking or filtering Internet access to matter inappropriate for minors, to require a study of available Internet blocking or filtering software, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 5, 1999

Mr. SANTORUM introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

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## A BILL

To require schools and libraries receiving universal service assistance to install systems or implement policies for blocking or filtering Internet access to matter inappropriate for minors, to require a study of available Internet blocking or filtering software, 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 “Neighborhood Chil-  
5 dren’s Internet Protection Act”.

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 OR ADOPT INTER-**  
 5 **NET USE POLICIES.**

6 (a) NO UNIVERSAL SERVICE.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 254 of the Commu-  
 8 nications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 254) is amended  
 9 by adding at the end the following:

10 “(1) IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNET FILTERING OR  
 11 BLOCKING SYSTEM OR USE POLICIES.—

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

17 “(2) CERTIFICATION.—A certification under  
 18 this paragraph with respect to a school or library is  
 19 a certification by the school, school board, or other  
 20 authority with responsibility for administration of  
 21 the school, or the library, or any other entity rep-  
 22 resenting the school or library in applying for uni-  
 23 versal service assistance, that the school or library—

24 “(A) has—

25 “(i) selected a system for its com-  
 26 puters with Internet access that are dedi-

1 cated to student use in order to filter or  
2 block Internet access to matter considered  
3 to be inappropriate for minors; and

4 “(ii) installed on such computers, or  
5 upon obtaining such computers will install  
6 on such computers, a system to filter or  
7 block Internet access to such matter; or

8 “(B)(i) has adopted or implemented an  
9 Internet use policy that addresses—

10 “(I) access by minors to inappropriate  
11 matter on the Internet and World Wide  
12 Web;

13 “(II) the safety and security of minors  
14 when using electronic mail, chat rooms,  
15 and other forms of direct electronic com-  
16 munications;

17 “(III) unauthorized access, including  
18 so-called ‘hacking’, and other unlawful ac-  
19 tivities by minors online;

20 “(IV) unauthorized disclosure, use,  
21 and dissemination of personal identifica-  
22 tion information regarding minors; and

23 “(V) whether the school or library, as  
24 the case may be, is employing hardware,  
25 software, or other technological means to

1 limit, monitor, or otherwise control or  
2 guide Internet access by minors; and

3 “(ii) provided reasonable public notice and  
4 held at least one public hearing or meeting  
5 which addressed the proposed Internet use pol-  
6 icy.

7 “(3) LOCAL DETERMINATION OF CONTENT.—  
8 For purposes of a certification under paragraph (2),  
9 the determination regarding what matter is inappro-  
10 priate for minors shall be made by the school board,  
11 library, or other authority responsible for making  
12 the determination. No agency or instrumentality of  
13 the United States Government may—

14 “(A) establish criteria for making such de-  
15 termination;

16 “(B) review the determination made by the  
17 certifying school, school board, library, or other  
18 authority; or

19 “(C) consider the criteria employed by the  
20 certifying school, school board, library, or other  
21 authority in the administration of subsection  
22 (h)(1)(B).

23 “(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subsection shall  
24 apply with respect to schools and libraries seeking

1 universal service assistance under subsection  
2 (h)(1)(B) on or after July 1, 2000.”.

3 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection  
4 (h)(1)(B) of that section is amended by striking “All  
5 telecommunications” and inserting “Except as pro-  
6 vided by subsection (l), all telecommunications”.

7 (b) STUDY.—Not later than 150 days after the date  
8 of the enactment of this Act, the National Telecommuni-  
9 cations and Information Administration shall initiate a no-  
10 tice and comment proceeding for purposes of—

11 (1) evaluating whether or not currently avail-  
12 able commercial Internet blocking and filtering soft-  
13 ware adequately addresses the needs of educational  
14 institutions;

15 (2) making recommendations on how to foster  
16 the development of products which meet such needs;  
17 and

18 (3) evaluating the development and effective-  
19 ness of local Internet use policies that are currently  
20 in operation after community input.

21 **SEC. 3. IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS.**

22 Not later than 100 days after the date of enactment  
23 of this Act, the Federal Communications Commission shall

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- 1 adopt rules implementing this Act and the amendments
- 2 made by this Act.

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