

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4982

To improve public awareness in the United States regarding safe use of the Internet through the establishment of an Office of Internet Safety and Public Awareness within the Federal Trade Commission.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 16, 2006

Ms. BEAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To improve public awareness in the United States regarding safe use of the Internet through the establishment of an Office of Internet Safety and Public Awareness within the Federal Trade Commission.

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 “Safeguarding Amer-
5 ica’s Families by Enhancing and Reorganizing New and
6 Efficient Technologies Act of 2006” or the “SAFER NET
7 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE.**

2 The Federal Trade Commission shall establish an Of-
3 fice of Internet Safety and Public Awareness, which shall
4 have responsibility for programs and activities relating to
5 increasing public awareness and providing education re-
6 garding Internet safety.

7 **SEC. 3. DIRECTOR.**

8 The Office shall be headed by a Director who shall
9 be appointed by the Commission.

10 **SEC. 4. INTERNET SAFETY.**

11 For purposes of this Act, the issue of Internet safety
12 includes issues regarding use of the Internet in a manner
13 that promotes safe online activity, including safe trans-
14 actions involved in online commerce, and protects against
15 threats to financial information and privacy, threats from
16 cyber-crime, and threats to juveniles, including cyber-
17 predators and material that is inappropriate for minors.

18 **SEC. 5. DUTIES.**

19 (a) ACTIVITIES.—The Commission, acting through
20 the Office, shall carry out a nationwide program to in-
21 crease public awareness and education regarding Internet
22 safety, for families, businesses, organizations, and other
23 users, that utilizes existing resources and efforts of the
24 Federal Government, State and local governments, non-
25 profit organizations, private technology and financial com-

1 panies, Internet service providers, World Wide Web-based
2 resources, and other appropriate entities, that includes—

3 (1) evaluating Internet safety efforts and activi-
4 ties provided at various levels of government and by
5 other entities;

6 (2) improving efficiency of Internet safety ef-
7 forts and activities, by eliminating redundancy of ef-
8 forts at various levels of government and other enti-
9 ties, identifying, promoting, and expanding effective
10 such efforts and activities and coordinating among
11 such efforts and activities;

12 (3) identifying, promoting, and encouraging
13 best practices for Internet safety;

14 (4) establishing and carrying out a national
15 outreach and education campaign regarding Internet
16 safety utilizing various media and Internet-based re-
17 sources;

18 (5) serving as the primary contact in the Fed-
19 eral Government, and as a national clearinghouse,
20 for information and public awareness efforts regard-
21 ing Internet safety;

22 (6) facilitating access to, and the exchange of,
23 information regarding Internet safety to promote up-
24 to-date knowledge regarding current issues;

1 (7) providing expert advice and consultation to
2 the Commission regarding Internet safety issues;
3 and

4 (8) providing assistance, including technical as-
5 sistance and financial assistance under subsection
6 (c), to States, units of local government, schools, po-
7 lice departments, non-profit organizations, and such
8 other entities as the Office considers appropriate to
9 promote Internet safety education and public aware-
10 ness.

11 (b) GRANTS AND CONTRACTS.—

12 (1) AUTHORITY.—In carrying out subsection
13 (b), the Commission, acting through the Office, may
14 make grants, to the extent amounts are provided in
15 advance in appropriation Acts for such grants, to,
16 and enter into cooperative agreements, contracts,
17 and interagency agreements with States, units of
18 local government, schools, police departments, non-
19 profit organizations, and such other public and pri-
20 vate agencies, entities, and organizations as the Of-
21 fice considers appropriate.

22 (2) EVALUATION.—The Commission, acting
23 through the Office, shall provide for evaluations of
24 projects and activities carried out with financial as-
25 sistance provided under paragraph (1) and for the

1 dissemination of information developed as a result of
2 such projects.

3 **SEC. 6. ANNUAL REPORTS.**

4 The Commission, acting through the Office, shall
5 submit a report not later than March 31 of each year
6 that—

7 (1) describes the activities of the Office during
8 the preceding calendar year;

9 (2) contains any evaluations performed pursu-
10 ant to subsection (c)(2) for any projects and activi-
11 ties carried out during the preceding calendar with
12 assistance under subsection (c)(1);

13 (3) describes and analyzes the current state, as
14 of the preparation of such report, of Internet safety,
15 existing and emerging threats to Internet safety, and
16 costs to the economy of the United States resulting
17 from preventing, responding to, eliminating, and
18 otherwise dealing with threats to Internet safety.

19 **SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.**

20 For purposes of this Act, the following definitions
21 shall apply:

22 (1) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”
23 means the Federal Trade Commission.

24 (2) INTERNET.—The term “Internet” means
25 collectively the myriad of computer and tele-

1 communications facilities, including equipment and
2 operating software, which comprise the inter-
3 connected world-wide network of networks that em-
4 ploy the Transmission Control Protocol/Internet
5 Protocol, or any predecessor or successor protocols
6 to such protocol, to communicate information of all
7 kinds by wire or radio.

8 (3) OFFICE.—The term “Office” means the Of-
9 fice of Internet Safety and Public Awareness of the
10 Federal Trade Commission, established by section 2.

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