
HOUSE BILL 2747

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Representatives Ahern, Lovick, Bush, O'Brien, Miloscia, Crouse, Hankins, McDonald, Boldt, Skinner, Sump, Holmquist, Roach, McMahan, Orcutt, Kristiansen, Pearson and Nixon

Read first time 01/20/2004. Referred to Committee on Technology, Telecommunications & Energy.

1 AN ACT Relating to providing internet software filters in
2 libraries; and adding new sections to chapter 43.07 RCW.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.07 RCW
5 to read as follows:

6 A computer that:

7 (1) Is located in a lending library supported by public funds,
8 public school library or media arts center, or in the library of a
9 public institution of higher education;

10 (2) Can access the internet; and

11 (3) Is available for use by the public or students, or both;

12 must have its use policies determined by the facility's governing
13 board. The governing board must adopt policies intended to reduce the
14 ability of the user to access web sites displaying erotic or sexually
15 explicit information or material as defined in chapter 9.68 RCW.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.07 RCW
17 to read as follows:

1 (1)(a) A pilot program is established to assess the feasibility of
2 installing internet filtering software in libraries or institutions
3 subject to this act, if funding is available.

4 (b) The secretary of state must implement this program and select
5 appropriate filtering software. A minimum of three filtering software
6 programs must be tested.

7 (2) The secretary of state must request institutions to voluntarily
8 participate in the pilot program. Pilot areas shall be located in the
9 north, south, east, and west areas of the state. The secretary of
10 state must make every effort to ensure that one public school and one
11 public library in each area are selected. Participating institutions
12 must have filtering software in place or install recommended filtering
13 software purchased by the state that incorporates web-filtering
14 technology designed to eliminate or reduce the ability of the computer
15 to access web sites displaying erotic or sexually explicit pictures or
16 any other obscene material as defined by law. Selected software must
17 be able to distinguish between pornographic and obscene web sites and
18 medical research web sites.

19 (3) The secretary of state will evaluate this program. The
20 evaluation must be based on the program's ability to:

21 (a) Limit or restrict access to sources of information or images
22 that are obscene including hard-core pornography and child pornography;

23 (b) Limit or restrict access to sources of pornographic information
24 or images that could be harmful to minors; and

25 (c) Successfully access and not filter legitimate research sites.

26 (4) Any person blocked from an internet site he or she believes
27 does not contain material that meets the criteria listed in subsection
28 (3)(a) or (b) of this section, and desires to access the internet site,
29 may request that the institution unblock the site. If the institution
30 determines the site does not contain material listed in subsection
31 (3)(a) or (b) of this section, the institution must unblock the site.
32 An adult patron may request unfiltered access to the internet for
33 serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific purposes, and the
34 institution may temporarily disable the blocking software for those
35 purposes.

36 (5) Medical schools are exempt from the pilot program.

37 (6) The secretary of state must prepare a report and

1 recommendations and present them to the legislature by December 31,
2 2004.

--- END ---