

ASSEMBLY, No. 1464

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 209th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2000 SESSION

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District 2 (Atlantic)

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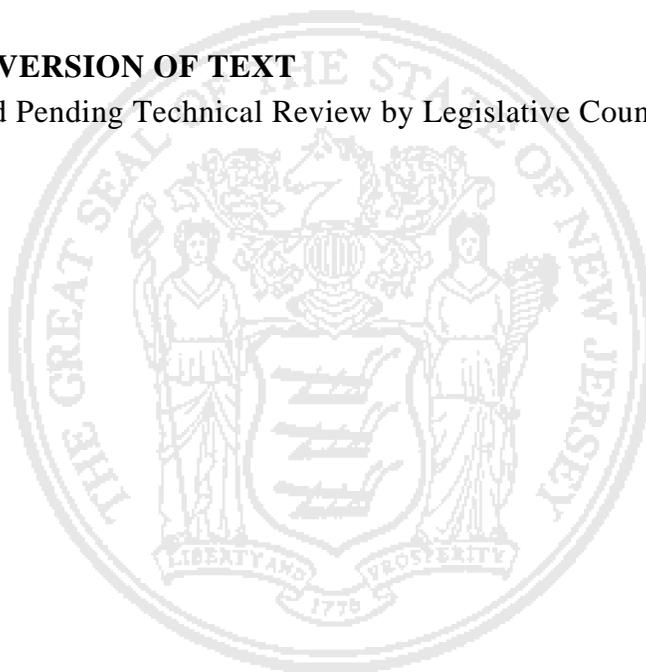
Assemblymen Kelly, Cottrell and LeFevre

SYNOPSIS

Requires a parent or guardian to sign consent form permitting pupil access to school district's interactive computer services and requires the study of the advisability of Internet blocking technologies for school districts.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 AN ACT concerning interactive computer services and supplementing
2 chapter 35 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

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4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

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7 1. The Legislature finds and declares that: access to interactive
8 computer services is an important component of a child's education;
9 the use of interactive computer services for educational projects will
10 assist pupils in preparing for a successful life in the 21st century; in
11 addition to the vast opportunities afforded to children by this
12 technology, there are also significant dangers posed by it; and it is
13 important that the Legislature provide a procedure for informing
14 parents and guardians of those dangers in order for them to protect
15 New Jersey's children from becoming victimized by any on-line
16 criminal activity.

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18 2. The Department of Education, in cooperation with the State
19 Police High Technology Crime Unit, shall prepare a guide on Internet
20 safety, copies of which shall be distributed to each school district.
21 The guide shall include a form by which a parent or guardian may
22 consent to a pupil's access to a school district's interactive computer
23 services. The board of education shall require that the consent form
24 signed by a pupil's parent or guardian be filed with the school principal
25 prior to that pupil being permitted access to the district's interactive
26 computer services.

27
28 3. The Commissioner of Education shall direct each county
29 superintendent of schools to study, in conjunction with the school
30 districts in the county, the advisability of requiring a district to
31 purchase and install a technology for computers with Internet access
32 to filter or block material deemed to be harmful to minors, the creation
33 of interactive computing services specifically designed for curricular
34 purposes, the implementation of user behavior policies, and
35 mechanisms to facilitate the establishment and monitoring of use and
36 access policies.

37 If the studies conducted pursuant to this section indicate that a filter
38 or blocking technology is advisable, the commissioner shall require
39 that all school districts purchase and install a technology of this type.

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41 4. Each school district shall annually notify the commissioner as to
42 any added expense incurred by the district in complying with the
43 provisions of this act. There shall annually be appropriated to the
44 Department of Education an amount necessary to cover all additional
45 expenses incurred by school districts in complying with the provisions
46 of this act.

1 5. This act shall take effect immediately and first apply to the
2 1999-2000 school year.

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STATEMENT

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7 This bill requires the Department of Education, in cooperation with
8 the State Police High Technology Crime Unit, to prepare a guide on
9 Internet safety, which will be distributed to each school district. The
10 guide will include a form by which a parent or guardian may consent
11 to his child's access to a school district's interactive computer services.
12 The board of education will require that the consent form signed by a
13 pupil's parent or guardian be filed with the school principal prior to
14 that child being permitted access to the district's interactive computer
15 services.

16 The bill also requires that the Commissioner of Education direct
17 each county superintendent of schools to study, in conjunction with
18 school districts in the county, the advisability of requiring a district to
19 purchase and install a technology for computers with Internet access
20 to filter or block material deemed to be harmful to minors, the creation
21 of interactive computing services specifically designed for curricular
22 purposes, and mechanisms to facilitate the establishment and
23 monitoring of use and access policies. The bill provides that if the
24 studies indicate that a filter or blocking technology is advisable, the
25 commissioner will require that all school districts purchase and install
26 a technology of this type.

27 Additionally, the bill requires that all school districts annually notify
28 the commissioner as to any added expense incurred by the district in
29 complying with the provisions of the bill. The bill also requires there
30 to be an annual appropriation to the Department of Education in an
31 amount necessary to cover all additional expenses incurred by school
32 districts in complying with the provisions of the bill.

33 This bill would take effect immediately and first apply to the 1999-
34 2000 school year.