

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Version:** First engrossment

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**Subject:** Requiring library computers with Internet access available to students to be equipped with filters

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### Overview

The U.S. Supreme Court decision in *U.S. v. American Library Association (2003)* allows Congress to require public libraries to install pornography filters on all computers with Internet access as a condition of receiving E-rate funding or grants for computer related purchases. This bill requires all public school and public library computers with Internet access available to students to install filters or other technology that restricts students' access to obscene, pornographic, and harmful material or have all state funds withheld.

#### Section

**1 Internet access for students.** (a) Requires all computers at a school site with access to the Internet available for student use to be equipped with software filtering or blocking technology designed to restrict student access to obscene, pornographic, and material harmful to minors.

(b) Strikes language excusing a school site from purchasing filtering technology if the purchase represents more than an incidental expense. At the request of an adult, requires school districts to unblock filtered sites for bona fide research of another lawful purpose.

(e) Withholds all state funds available to a school site until all computers with Internet access available for student use at the school site are equipped with software filtering or blocking technology designed to restrict student access to obscene, pornographic, and material

**Section**

harmful to minors. Requires a school district to formally adopt an Internet safety policy consistent with this section and other applicable law.

(f) Requires school districts to send an electronic notice to the education department indicating those school sites that have equipped their computers with software filtering or blocking technology, consistent with the section.

Makes this section effective January 1, 2005.

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**Internet access; libraries.** (a) Requires all public library computers with access to the Internet available for use by children under 18 to be equipped with software filtering or blocking technology designed to restrict student access to obscene, pornographic, and material harmful to minors.

(b) Strikes language excusing a public library from purchasing filtering technology if the purchase represents more than an incidental expense. At the request of an adult conducting research or pursuing another lawful purpose, requires libraries to unblock filtered sites without significant delay and without requiring the adult to explain the request.

(d) Withholds all state funds available to a public library until all computers with Internet access available for student use at the school site are equipped with software filtering or blocking technology designed to restrict student access to obscene, pornographic, and material harmful to minors. Requires a public library to formally adopt an Internet safety policy consistent with this section and other applicable law.

(f) Requires public library systems to send an electronic notice to the education department indicating the public libraries within the system that have equipped their computers with software filtering or blocking technology, consistent with the section.

Makes this section effective January 1, 2005.