

# VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY -- 2000 SESSION

## CHAPTER 930

*An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 4 of Chapter 3 of Title 8.01 a section numbered 8.01-49.1, relating to liability for defamatory material on the Internet.*

[H 1269]

Approved April 9, 2000

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 4 of Chapter 3 of Title 8.01 a section numbered 8.01-49.1 as follows:**

*§ 8.01-49.1. Liability for defamatory material on the Internet.*

*A. No provider or user of an interactive computer service on the Internet shall be treated as the publisher or speaker of any information provided to it by another information content provider. No provider or user of an interactive computer service shall be liable for (i) any action voluntarily taken by it in good faith to restrict access to, or availability of, material that the provider or user considers to be obscene, lewd, lascivious, excessively violent, harassing, or intended to incite hatred on the basis of race, religious conviction, color, or national origin, whether or not such material is constitutionally protected, or (ii) any action taken to enable, or make available to information content providers or others, the technical means to restrict access to information provided by another information content provider.*

*B. Definitions. As used in this section:*

*"Information content provider" means any person or entity that is responsible, in whole or in part, for the creation or development of information provided through the Internet or any other interactive computer service.*

*"Interactive computer service" means any information service, system, or access software provider that provides or enables computer access by multiple users to a computer server, including specifically a service or system that provides access to the Internet and such systems operated or services offered by libraries or educational institutions.*

*"Internet" means the international computer network of interoperable packet-switched data networks.*