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HOUSE BILL NO. 8

Offered January 10, 1996

Prefiled December 14, 1995

A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 13 of Title 22.1 a section numbered 22.1-212.5, relating to education; school-based access to information infrastructure.

Patrons—Marshall, McDonnell, Nixon, O'Brien and Parrish

Referred to Committee on Education

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Article 1 of Chapter 13 of Title 22.1 a section numbered 22.1-212.5 as follows:

§ 22.1-212.5. School-based computer access to information infrastructure.

A. For the purpose of this section:

"Information Infrastructure" means telecommunications, cable, and computer networks and includes the Internet, the World Wide Web, Usenet, bulletin board systems, on-line systems, and telephone networks.

"Sexually explicit content" means any (i) description of or (ii) picture, photograph, drawing, motion picture film, digital image or similar visual representation depicting, sexual bestiality, a lewd exhibition of nudity, as nudity is defined in § 18.2-390, sexual excitement, sexual conduct or sadomasochistic abuse, as also defined in § 18.2-390, coprophilia, urophilia, or fetishism.

B. Public and private elementary and secondary schools enabling students to access the Internet, Usenet, the World Wide Web or other components of the information infrastructure via computers or computer connections furnished by such schools shall ensure that:

1. The word "juvenile" precedes students' names in all electronic mail addresses furnished of authorized students.

2. All World Wide Web pages, Gopher pages or similar pages containing student names and other identifying information about students contain the following warning:

"Warning: Information contained on this page concerns juveniles. All persons accessing this information are subject to the provisions of the Virginia Criminal Code (Title 18.2 of the Virginia Code)."

3. To the fullest extent possible, filtering software is obtained and utilized to inhibit student access to computer services or files having sexually explicit content.

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