

Internet Freedom and Child Protection Act

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105th CONGRESS

1st Session

H. R. 774

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to restore freedom of speech to the Internet and to protect children from unsuitable online material.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 13, 1997

Ms. LOFGREN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to restore freedom of speech to the Internet and to protect children from unsuitable online material.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. ➡

This Act may be cited as the `Internet Freedom and Child Protection Act of 1997'.

SEC. 2. INTERNET ACCESS PROVIDERS REQUIRED TO MAKE SCREENING SOFTWARE AVAILABLE. ➡

Section 223 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 223) is amended--

(1) in subsection (a)(1)--

(A) by striking subparagraph (B); and

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) through (E) as subparagraphs (B) through (D), respectively;

(2) by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:

`(d) OBLIGATIONS OF INTERNET ACCESS PROVIDERS-

`(1) ACCESS PROVIDER OBLIGATION- An Internet access provider shall, at the time of entering an agreement with a customer for the provision of Internet access services, offer such customer, either for a fee or at no charge, screening software that is designed to permit the customer to limit access to material that is unsuitable for children.

`(2) DEFINITIONS- For purposes of this subsection:

`(A) INTERNET- The term `Internet' means the international computer network of both Federal and non-Federal interoperable packet switched data networks.

`(B) INTERNET ACCESS PROVIDER- The term `Internet access provider' means a person engaged in the business of providing a computer and communications facility through which a customer may obtain access to the Internet, but does not include a common carrier to the extent that it provides only transmission and routing services.

`(C) INTERNET ACCESS SERVICES- The term `Internet access services' means the provision of computer and communications services through which a customer using a computer and a modem or other communications device may obtain access to the Internet, but does not include transmission and routing services provided by a common carrier.'; and

(3) by striking subsections (e) through (h).

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATES. ➔

The amendments made by section 2 of this Act are effective on the date of enactment of this Act, except that the requirements of section 223(d) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 223(d)) as amended by section 2 shall be effective 6 months after such date of enactment.