HB 0611 2005

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A bill to be entitled

An act relating to Internet screening in public libraries; creating s. 257.44, F.S.; defining terms; requiring public libraries to provide technology that protects against Internet access to specified proscribed visual depictions; allowing adults to request disablement of the technology for specified purposes; prohibiting a public library from maintaining a record of adults who request such disablement; requiring a public library to post notice of its Internet safety policy; providing for the assessment of a fine and attorney's fees and costs in connection with a violation by a public library; directing the Division of Library and Information Services within the Department of State to adopt rules requiring a written attestation of compliance as a condition of state funding; providing that no cause of action arises for a violation by a public library except as provided; providing a finding of important state interest; providing an effective date.

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Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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Section 1. Section 257.44, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

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- 257.44 Internet screening in public libraries. --
- 25 (1) As used in this section, the term:
 - "Administrative unit" means the entity designated by a local government body as responsible for the administration of all public library locations established or maintained by that

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29 <u>local government body.</u>

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- (b) "Child pornography" has the same meaning as in s. 847.001.
- (c) "Harmful to minors" means any picture, image, graphic
 image file, or other visual depiction that:
- 1. Taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion.
- 2. Depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, an actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual act, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals.
- 3. Taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.
 - (d) "Minor" means an individual under 18 years of age.
 - (e) "Obscene" has the same meaning as in s. 847.001.
- (f) "Public computer" means a computer that is made available to the public and that has Internet access.
- (g) "Public library" means any library that is open to the public and that is established or maintained by one or more of the following local government bodies in this state: county; municipality; consolidated city-county government; special district; or special tax district. The term does not include a library that is open to the public and that is established or maintained by a community college or state university.
- (h) "Reasonable efforts" means the public library, in implementing the policy required by subsection (2), in its ordinary course of business:

1. Posts its Internet safety policy.

- 2. Uses a technology protection measure on all public computers.
- 3. Disables the technology protection measure upon an adult's request to use the computer for bona fide research or other lawful purpose.
- (i) "Technology protection measure" means software or equivalent technology that blocks or filters Internet access to the visual depictions that are proscribed under subsection (2).
- (2)(a) Each public library shall enforce an Internet safety policy that provides for:
- 1. Installation and operation of a technology protection measure on all public computers in the public library which protects against access through such computers by adults to visual depictions that are obscene or constitute child pornography and by minors to visual depictions that are obscene, constitute child pornography, or are harmful to minors.
- 2. Disablement of the technology protection measure by an employee of the public library upon an adult's request to use the computer for bona fide research or other lawful purpose.
- (b) Each public library shall post a notice in a conspicuous area of the public library which indicates that an Internet safety policy has been adopted and informs the public that the Internet safety policy is available for review at each public library.
- (c) A public library may not maintain a record of names of adults who request that the technology protection measure be disabled under this subsection.

(3) If a public library knowingly fails to make reasonable efforts to comply with subsection (2), a resident of this state may seek enforcement as provided in this subsection.

- (a) Before instituting a civil action under paragraph (b), the resident shall, within 45 days after a public library's alleged failure to make such reasonable efforts, mail a written notice of intended civil action for enforcement to the head of the applicable administrative unit. The notice must identify each public library location involved and specify the facts and circumstances alleged to constitute a violation of subsection (2). Within 45 days after the receipt of such notice, the head of the administrative unit shall mail a written response to the resident who provided the notice. The written response must specify the efforts, if any, which each public library location identified in the notice is making to comply with the requirements of subsection (2). All mailings required by this paragraph shall be certified with return receipt requested.
- (b) If the resident does not receive the written response required in paragraph (a) within 60 days after receipt of the notice by the head of the administrative unit, or if the written response fails to indicate that the public library is making reasonable efforts to comply with subsection (2), the resident may institute a civil action in the circuit court of the county in which the administrative unit is located to seek injunctive relief to enforce compliance with subsection (2).
- (c) In connection with an enforcement action under paragraph (b), the court shall:
 - 1. Impose a civil fine upon the administrative unit in the

amount of \$100 per day per public library location that is found
to have not made reasonable efforts to comply with subsection

(2). Accrual of the fine shall be for the period between the
date that the head of the administrative unit received the
notice of intended civil action for enforcement and the date
upon which the public library location begins making reasonable
efforts to comply with subsection (2).

- 2. Order an administrative unit that is fined pursuant to subparagraph 1. to pay reasonable attorney's fees and costs to a prevailing resident. If the court finds that the filing of the action was in bad faith or frivolous, it shall order the resident who filed the action to pay reasonable attorney's fees and costs to the administrative unit.
- (d) The clerk of the circuit court shall act as the depository for all civil fines paid pursuant to this subsection.

 The clerk may retain a service charge of \$1 for each payment and shall, on a monthly basis, transfer the moneys collected for such fines to the Department of Revenue for deposit in the Records Management Trust Fund within the Department of State.
- (4) The Division of Library and Information Services within the Department of State shall adopt rules pursuant to ss. 120.536(1) and 120.54 which require the head of each administrative unit to annually attest in writing, under penalty of perjury, that all public library locations for which the administrative unit is responsible are in compliance with subsection (2), as a condition of the receipt of any state funds distributed under chapter 257.
 - (5) No cause of action, except as authorized in subsection

141	(3), shall arise in lavor of any person due to a public
142	library's failure to comply with subsection (2).
143	Section 2. In accordance with s. 18, Art. VII of the State
144	Constitution, the Legislature finds that the installation and
145	operation by public libraries of technology protection measures
146	that protect against access by adults to visual depictions that
147	are obscene or constitute child pornography and by minors to
148	visual depictions that are obscene, constitute child
149	pornography, or are harmful to minors fulfills an important
150	state interest.
151	Section 3. This act shall take effect October 1, 2005.