State of Arkansas  
83rd General Assembly  
Regular Session, 2001  

By: Senator Wilkins  

A Bill  
Act 912 of 2001  
SENATE BILL 717

For An Act To Be Entitled  
AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AN INTERNET USE POLICY FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle  
AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AN INTERNET USE POLICY FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code 6-21-107 is amended to read as follows:

6-21-107. Official computer use policy.

(a) The board of directors of each school district in this state shall develop and adopt a written policy concerning student and staff use of computers owned by the district in accessing the Internet. The written policy shall state that a system to prevent computer users from accessing material harmful to minors shall be established and maintained for all public access computers in the school district. The policy shall be implemented by August 1, 2001.

(b) The written policy shall include provisions for administration of punishment of students for violations of the policy with stiffer penalties for repeat offenders, and the same shall be incorporated into the district's written student discipline policy.

(c) Students shall sign a computer use agreement form outlining proper
and improper use of public access computers prior to being allowed to access
the computer equipment.

(d) For purposes of this section:

(1) "Harmful to minors" has the same meaning as prescribed in § 5-68-501; and

(2) "Public access computer" means a computer that:

(A) Is located in a public school or public library;

(B) Is accessible by a minor; and

(C) Is connected to any computer communication system such as, but not limited to, what is commonly known as the Internet.

SECTION 2. Title 13, Chapter 2, Subchapter 1 of the Arkansas Code is
amended to add an additional section to read as follows:

13-2-103. (a) The board of directors of each library operated as an
entity of the state or any city, county, or other political subdivision of
the state with one (1) or more public access computers shall develop, adopt,
and implement by August 1, 2001, a written policy that:

(1) Establishes a system to prevent minors from gaining computer
access to materials harmful to minors as defined in § 5-68-501;

(2) Provides for suspending the privilege of a minor to use the
public access computers if the minor violates the policy and provides for,
revoking such privilege for repeat offenders; and

(3) Requires all users to sign a computer use agreement form
outlining proper and improper use of public access computers prior to their
being allowed to access the computer equipment.

(b) For purposes of this section, "public access computer" means a
computer that:

(1) Is located in a public school or public library;

(2) Is accessible by a minor; and

(3) Is connected to any computer communication system such as,
but not limited to, what is commonly known as the Internet.

SECTION 3. EMERGENCY CLAUSE. It is found and determined by the
General Assembly that the establishment of internet use policies for our
public schools and libraries is vital; and that until this act goes into
effect, minors will not be afforded the protection which will result from
this act. Therefore, an emergency is declared to exist and this act being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety shall become effective on the date of its approval by the Governor. If the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the Governor, it shall become effective on the expiration of the period of time during which the Governor may veto the bill. If the bill is vetoed by the Governor and the veto is overridden, it shall become effective on the date the last house overrides the veto.

APPROVED: 3/19/2001