

S T A T E   O F   N E W   Y O R K

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625--A

2009-2010 Regular Sessions

I N   A S S E M B L Y

(PREFILED)

January 7, 2009

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Introduced by M. of A. KAVANAGH, BENJAMIN, EDDINGTON, ENGLEBRIGHT, ESPAILLAT, FIELDS, GALEF, MARKEY, PHEFFER, SCHROEDER, SPANO, ALFANO, ERRIGO, FINCH, GIGLIO, MOLINARO, TOBACCO, WALKER, ROBINSON, HOOPER, KOON, CUSICK, JAFFEE, BRODSKY, ROSENTHAL -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. CALHOUN, CARROZZA, DeMONTE, DUPREY, HAYES, JEFFRIES, LIFTON, LUPARDO, MAGNARELLI, McENENY, SCHIMEL, SEMINERIO, THIELE, TOWNS, WEISENBERG -- read once and referred to the Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions -- reported and referred to the Committee on Codes -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the public service law, in relation to offering parental controls for internet services

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     Section 1. The public service law is amended by adding a new article  
2 12 to read as follows:

3                                                             ARTICLE 12

4                                                             INTERNET PARENTAL CONTROLS

5 SECTION 300. DEFINITIONS.

6                     301. PARENTAL CONTROLS.

7                     302. ENFORCEMENT.

8     S 300. DEFINITIONS. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS ARTICLE:

9         1. "CHILD" MEANS A PERSON WHO IS LESS THAN EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE.

10        2. "INTERNET OR ANY OTHER COMPUTER NETWORK" MEANS THE COMPUTER NETWORK  
11 COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE INTERNET AND ANY OTHER LOCAL, REGIONAL OR GLOBAL  
12 COMPUTER NETWORK THAT IS SIMILAR TO OR IS A PREDECESSOR OR SUCCESSOR OF  
13 THE INTERNET.

14        3. "INTERNET ACCESS PROVIDER" MEANS AN ENTITY THAT PROVIDES CONSUMERS  
15 WITH PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE INTERNET.

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[ ] is old law to be omitted.

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1 4. "INTERACTIVE COMPUTER SERVICE" MEANS ANY INFORMATION SERVICE,  
2 SYSTEM, OR ACCESS SOFTWARE PROVIDER THAT PROVIDES OR ENABLES COMPUTER  
3 ACCESS BY MULTIPLE USERS TO A COMPUTER SERVER, INCLUDING SPECIFICALLY A  
4 SERVICE OR SYSTEM THAT PROVIDES ACCESS TO THE INTERNET AND SUCH SYSTEMS  
5 OPERATED OR SERVICES OFFERED BY LIBRARIES OR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

6 S 301. PARENTAL CONTROLS. 1. IF AN INTERNET ACCESS PROVIDER KNOWS OR  
7 HAS REASON TO KNOW FROM REGISTRATION DATA IN ITS POSSESSION THAT A  
8 SUBSCRIBER CURRENTLY RESIDES WITHIN THIS STATE, THE PROVIDER SHALL MAKE  
9 AVAILABLE TO THE SUBSCRIBER A PRODUCT OR SERVICE WHICH THE PROVIDER  
10 REASONABLY BELIEVES MAY ASSIST THE SUBSCRIBER TO CONTROL A CHILD'S USE  
11 OF THE INTERNET; PROVIDED HOWEVER, THAT INTERNET ACCESS PROVIDERS THAT  
12 PROVIDE INTERNET ACCESS VIA SPECTRUM REGULATED BY THE FCC, PURSUANT TO  
13 47 USC 301 ET SEQ OR ITS SUCCESSORS, SHALL MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS  
14 SECTION WHEN SUCH TECHNOLOGY IS REASONABLY AND COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE.  
15 THE PRODUCT OR SERVICE MUST ENABLE, IN A COMMERCIALY REASONABLE MANNER,  
16 THE SUBSCRIBER TO:

17 (A) BLOCK A CHILD'S ACCESS TO SPECIFIC WEBSITES OR DOMAINS;

18 (B) RESTRICT A CHILD'S ACCESS EXCLUSIVELY TO SPECIFIC WEBSITES OR  
19 DOMAINS APPROVED BY THE SUBSCRIBER; AND

20 (C) ALLOW THE SUBSCRIBER TO MONITOR A CHILD'S USE OF THE INTERNET  
21 SERVICE BY PROVIDING A REPORT TO THE SUBSCRIBER OF THE SPECIFIC WEBSITES  
22 OR DOMAINS THAT THE CHILD HAS VISITED OR HAS ATTEMPTED TO VISIT BUT  
23 COULD NOT ACCESS BECAUSE THE WEBSITES OR DOMAINS WERE BLOCKED OR  
24 RESTRICTED BY THE SUBSCRIBER.

25 2. IF A PRODUCT OR SERVICE DESCRIBED IN THIS SECTION IS REASONABLY AND  
26 COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE FOR THE TECHNOLOGY UTILIZED BY THE SUBSCRIBER TO  
27 ACCESS THE INTERNET SERVICE, THE PROVIDER OF INTERNET SERVICE:

28 (A) SHALL PROVIDE TO THE SUBSCRIBER, AT OR NEAR THE TIME OF  
29 SUBSCRIPTION, NOTICE OF THE AVAILABILITY OF A PRODUCT OR SERVICE  
30 DESCRIBED IN SUBDIVISION ONE OF THIS SECTION.

31 (B) MAY MAKE A PRODUCT OR SERVICE DESCRIBED IN SUBDIVISION ONE OF THIS  
32 SECTION AVAILABLE TO THE SUBSCRIBER EITHER DIRECTLY OR THROUGH A THIRD-  
33 PARTY VENDOR, AND MAY CHARGE FOR THE PRODUCT OR SERVICE.

34 S 302. ENFORCEMENT. 1. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL MAY BRING A CIVIL ACTION  
35 AGAINST ANY INTERNET ACCESS PROVIDER THAT VIOLATES THIS ARTICLE TO  
36 ENJOIN THE VIOLATION AND MAY RECOVER A CIVIL PENALTY OF UP TO ONE  
37 HUNDRED DOLLARS PER VIOLATION OF THIS ARTICLE OR, FOR A PATTERN OR PRAC-  
38 TICE OF SUCH VIOLATIONS, OF UP TO ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS PER VIOLATION.

39 2. NOTHING IN THIS SECTION SHALL IN ANY WAY LIMIT RIGHTS OR REMEDIES  
40 WHICH ARE OTHERWISE AVAILABLE UNDER LAW TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OR ANY  
41 OTHER PERSON AUTHORIZED TO BRING AN ACTION UNDER THIS SECTION.

42 S 2. This act shall take effect on the one hundred eightieth day after  
43 it shall have become a law.