

By: Representative Moore (60th)

To: Education

HOUSE BILL NO. 393

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES TO BLOCK
2 MINORS' ACCESS TO OFFENSIVE AND HARMFUL INTERNET MATERIAL ON
3 COMPUTERS IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES; AND FOR RELATED
4 PURPOSES.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

6 SECTION 1. (1) Each public school that has computers
7 accessible by students shall equip the computers with software
8 that prevents students from gaining Internet access to offensive
9 or harmful material or data not suitable for children. As an
10 alternative, the school may purchase Internet connectivity from an
11 Internet service provider which provides filtering services in
12 order to limit access to such offensive or harmful material or
13 data not suitable for children.

14 (2) Before September 1, 2001, the school board of each local
15 school district shall ensure that the schools in that district
16 have complied with subsection (1) of this section and shall
17 prescribe, by rules and regulations, standards on acceptable uses
18 of the Internet in the schools by students and school employees.

19 SECTION 2. (1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection
20 (2) of this section, each public library that has a public access
21 computer that is available for use by persons under eighteen (18)
22 years of age shall equip the computer with software that prevents
23 such persons from gaining access to offensive or harmful material
24 or data not suitable for minors. As an alternative, the library
25 may purchase Internet connectivity from an Internet service
26 provider which provides filtering services in order to limit
27 access to such offensive or harmful material or data not suitable
28 for minors.



29 (2) The board of trustees of any public library system, in
30 its discretion, may hold a public meeting during which the board
31 may vote to exempt the libraries in that system from the
32 requirements of subsection (1) of this section. Notice of such
33 meeting must be provided by the board in a newspaper published or
34 having a general circulation in each municipality or county in the
35 library system at least once a week for three (3) consecutive
36 weeks before the meeting, with the first publication being not
37 more than twenty-one (21) days before the scheduled date for the
38 meeting. The notice must state the time and place for the meeting
39 and must contain a statement that the board will vote, after
40 discussion and receiving public comment, on limiting materials
41 accessible by minors through the Internet in the public libraries.
42 If the board votes to exempt the libraries in that system from the
43 requirements of subsection (1) of this section, an alternative
44 means must be established for protecting persons under the age of
45 eighteen (18) years from offensive or harmful material or data not
46 suitable for minors on the Internet in the public library system.

47 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from
48 and after July 1, 2001.

