
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 353 Session of
2001

INTRODUCED BY BISHOP, WASHINGTON, YOUNGBLOOD, DeLUCA, LAUGHLIN,
HORSEY, SHANER, THOMAS, WATERS AND J. WILLIAMS,
JANUARY 31, 2001

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JANUARY 31, 2001

AN ACT

1 Requiring age restrictions on public use of computers;
2 conferring powers and duties on the Department of Education;
3 and imposing penalties.

4 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
5 hereby enacts as follows:

6 Section 1. Short title.

7 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Computer Age
8 Restrictions Act.

9 Section 2. Definitions.

10 The following words and phrases when used in this act shall
11 have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
12 context clearly indicates otherwise:

13 "Acceptable technology." Technology which:

14 (1) effectively blocks utilization of the computer to
15 access material designated as appropriate only for adults;
16 and

17 (2) is approved by the department and listed on a notice
18 in the Pennsylvania Bulletin.

1 "Department." The Department of Education of the
2 Commonwealth.

3 "Facility." A person that makes computers available to the
4 public without charge. The term includes schools and libraries.

5 Section 3. Department.

6 The department has the following powers and duties to
7 administer this act:

8 (1) To publish appropriate notices to implement the
9 definition of "acceptable technology" in section 2.

10 (2) To promulgate regulations.

11 Section 4. Requirement.

12 A facility shall take the following steps for its computers:

13 (1) Segregate computer areas for individuals who are:

14 (i) under 18 years of age; and

15 (ii) 18 years of age and older.

16 (2) Either:

17 (i) utilize acceptable technology in the computers
18 in the area under paragraph (1)(ii); or

19 (ii) remove or disable all computers in the area
20 under paragraph (1)(i).

21 Section 5. Penalties.

22 (a) Imposition.--The department may impose upon a person
23 that does not comply with section 4 an administrative penalty in
24 the amount of the assessed value of the noncompliant computer.

25 (b) Procedure.--Subsection (a) is subject to 2 Pa.C.S. Ch. 5
26 Subch. A (relating to practice and procedure of Commonwealth
27 agencies) and Ch. 7 Subch. A (relating to judicial review of
28 Commonwealth agency action).

29 Section 6. Effective date.

30 This act shall take effect as follows:

1 (1) Section 4(2) shall take effect 60 days after
2 publication of the first notice under section 3(1).
3 (2) This section shall take effect immediately.
4 (3) The remainder of this act shall take effect in 60
5 days.