

2010 -- H 7359

LC01012

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2010

HOUSE RESOLUTION

RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE COMMISSIONER OF THE RHODE ISLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION TO REQUIRE ALL
RHODE ISLAND SCHOOLS TO ADOPT AN INTERNET SAFETY EDUCATION
PROGRAM

Introduced By: Representative Peter F. Kilmartin

Date Introduced: February 04, 2010

Referred To: House Constituent Services

1 WHEREAS, The Internet is an essential tool for Rhode Island's schools and educators
2 and a prerequisite for Rhode Island students to compete in today's increasingly wired economy;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, In recognition of the importance of the Internet and other technology
5 resources in education, federal law requires that states ensure that their students achieve
6 technological literacy by eighth grade; and

7 WHEREAS, The Internet, however, is not free from risk; it may expose children to
8 potential dangers, including, without limitation, identity theft, viruses, spam, fraud, inappropriate
9 imagery, sexual solicitations, bullying, harassment, and hate crimes; and

10 WHEREAS, Safety experts view education as the most effective means of protecting
11 children from online dangers; and

12 WHEREAS, Such education may also help children understand the repercussions of their
13 own activities on the Internet, including, without limitation, bullying, hacking, cyber-plagiarism,
14 and copyright infringement; and

15 WHEREAS, Parents and other caregivers can play a vital role in educating children about
16 protection against potential online risks and appropriate online behavior but may not, in all
17 circumstances, have the expertise to help guide their children; and

18 WHEREAS, Schools are uniquely equipped to ensure that children receive the necessary

1 and proper education to protect themselves against online threats by incorporating Internet safety
2 education into existing curricula; and

3 WHEREAS, Online Safety is the protection against inappropriate or dangerous contact
4 on the Internet, including, but not limited to, inappropriate imagery, sexual solicitations, bullying,
5 harassment, and hate crimes or other inappropriate online contacts. Online Security refers to
6 protection on the Internet against identity theft, viruses, spam, or fraud occurring through use of a
7 personal computer or other technological device or involving data stored on, or transferred, or
8 posted via a personal computer or technological device. Online Ethics relates to safer and more
9 responsible conduct on the Internet, including, but not limited to, respect for the Online Security
10 and Online Safety of all Internet users; reporting inappropriate imagery, sexual solicitations,
11 bullying, stalking, harassment, impersonation, hate crimes, or other inappropriate online contacts;
12 respect for online copyright, trademark, and other property rights; and the consequences of cyber-
13 plagiarism. Resources for Online Safety, Online Security, and Online Ethics exist that offer
14 inexpensive or no-cost tools to help educate children, parents, and other caregivers, but these
15 resources require formal inclusion in existing curricula in order to be certain to reach students;
16 now, therefore be it

17 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and
18 Providence Plantations hereby requests the Commissioner of the Rhode Island Department
19 Elementary and Secondary Education to develop and make available to local school districts an
20 Internet Safety Education Program for students in kindergarten through twelfth grade. This age-
21 appropriate program should encourage secure, safe, and responsible use of the Internet by
22 educating children, parents, and other caregivers about Online Security, Online Safety, and
23 Online Ethics; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the Internet Safety Education Program shall incorporate, as
25 appropriate, existing and free materials developed by other states, education experts, child
26 psychologists, non-profits, or technology companies that work on Internet safety issues, or any
27 other available curricula; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives hereby requests the Commissioner of
29 the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to require all Rhode Island
30 school districts to adopt the Internet Safety Education Program; and be it further

31 RESOLVED, That each local school district incorporate the Internet Safety Program into
32 its curriculum and that the Program be taught at least once annually to students in kindergarten
33 through twelfth grade; and be it further

34 RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives hereby furthers requests the

1 Commissioner to provide each school district with educational materials for parents and
2 caregivers regarding Online Safety, Online Security, and Online Ethics. Such educational
3 materials should include free resources developed by other states, education experts, child
4 psychologists, non-profits, or technology companies that work on Internet safety issues, or any
5 other available curricula; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
7 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Commissioner of the Rhode Island
8 Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

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