

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 40

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2020 SESSION

Sponsored by:

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SYNOPSIS

Respectfully urges Congress pass legislation protecting children from danger while using internet.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel.



1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** respectfully urging Congress to pass
2 legislation to protect children from danger while using the
3 internet.
4
5 **WHEREAS**, Protecting children from any potential danger is a
6 fundamental duty of the State of New Jersey and the United States
7 Congress; and
8 **WHEREAS**, Research from Common Sense Media, an organization that
9 reviews entertainment for families, found that 98 percent of
10 children under the age of eight have access to a mobile device at
11 home; and
12 **WHEREAS**, The increase in technology and media consumption among
13 children has led to the consumption of highly addictive online
14 games and an increase in commercialization directed at children;
15 and
16 **WHEREAS**, The World Health Organization has labeled online gaming
17 disorder a mental health condition and warns the digital distraction
18 becomes a disorder when “increasing priority [is] given to gaming
19 to the extent that gaming takes precedence over other life interests
20 and daily activities,” and if the person continues to play or escalates
21 how much they play despite negative consequences; and
22 **WHEREAS**, The federal government last passed legislation to protect
23 children against offensive content in 1990, when “The Children’s
24 Television Act of 1990” was enacted; and
25 **WHEREAS**, Since then, the viewing habits of children have changed as
26 online free-for-all commercial and media platforms, including
27 YouTube, Instagram, and Netflix, continually grow in popularity;
28 and
29 **WHEREAS**, It is imperative to hold the leadership of internet-based
30 companies and online communities accountable since children do
31 not receive the same protection on video-streaming services as they
32 do with traditional broadcasting; and
33 **WHEREAS**, Internet-based companies should be encouraged to
34 establish positive safe spaces for children to develop their digital
35 skills and utilize online resources, while rooting out abuse and
36 negative content; and
37 **WHEREAS**, There is a need to better regulate and optimize online
38 platforms that fit the interests and needs of young people online,
39 while not shutting them out from the benefits of the internet; and
40 **WHEREAS**, Protecting children from internet dangers also includes
41 securing personal data that is collected and overseeing the
42 individuals and entities who have access to view and disseminate
43 that data; and
44 **WHEREAS**, According to the Campaign for a Commercial-Free
45 Childhood (CCFC), an organization that educates the public about
46 commercialism’s impact on children’s wellbeing, a large amount of
47 children’s data, including highly sensitive information, is shared

1 without parental knowledge or consent to vendors or companies
2 throughout a child's life, starting as early as kindergarten; and
3 **WHEREAS**, It is estimated that 40 percent of teens have received an
4 online request for personal information and 16 percent of children
5 have been approached online by a stranger, which is well over the
6 six percent of adults who believe children are ever approached
7 online by a stranger; and
8 **WHEREAS**, Over the last five years, the Federal Bureau of
9 Investigation's Internet Crime Complaint Center has reported an
10 average of more than 284,000 internet crime complaints filed per
11 year; and
12 **WHEREAS**, Federal laws intended to protect children and children's
13 data are inadequate to address the challenges of today's digital age
14 and have led to weak policing of graphic content on the internet;
15 and
16 **WHEREAS**, On Tuesday, March 12, 2019, Senators Ed Markey of
17 Massachusetts and Josh Hawley of Missouri, introduced S.748, a
18 bipartisan bill to amend the "Children's Online Privacy Protection
19 Act of 1998" (COPPA) to strengthen protections relating to the
20 online collection, use, and disclosure of personal information; and
21 **WHEREAS**, On Thursday, April 4, 2019, Senator Markey introduced
22 the "Kids Internet Design and Safety (KIDS) Act," to combat
23 manipulative design features, unhealthy marketing practices, and
24 the amplification of harmful content that make the internet
25 hazardous for children today; and
26 **WHEREAS**, Given that the safety of children is a high priority for this
27 State and the United States Congress, it is fitting and proper that
28 Congress pass the KIDS Act and the proposed amendments to
29 COPPA to better protect children from danger while using the
30 internet; now, therefore,

31
32 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the General Assembly of the State of New
33 Jersey:

34
35 1. This House respectfully urges the United States Congress to
36 pass comprehensive legislation protecting children on the internet,
37 such as the "Kid's Internet Design and Safety (KIDS) Act" and the
38 proposed amendments to the "Children's Online Privacy Protection
39 Act of 1998."

40
41 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
42 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the
43 President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United
44 States House of Representatives, the Majority and Minority Leaders
45 of the United States Senate and United States House of
46 Representatives, and each member of the United States Congress
47 elected from this State.

1 STATEMENT

2
3 This resolution respectfully urges Congress to pass legislation to
4 protect children from danger while using the internet. The increase
5 in technology and media consumption among children has led to the
6 consumption of highly addictive online games and an increase in
7 commercialization directed at children. Federal laws intended to
8 protect children and children’s data are inadequate to address the
9 challenges of today’s digital age.

10 Two bills introduced in Congress aim to increase the protections
11 relating to children using the internet. S.748, a bipartisan bill
12 sponsored by Senators Ed Markey of Massachusetts and Josh
13 Hawley of Missouri, amends the “Children’s Online Privacy
14 Protection Act of 1998,” (COPPA) to strengthen protections
15 relating to the online collection, use, and disclosure of personal
16 information of children and minors. In addition, Senator Markey
17 introduced the “Kids Internet Design and Safety (KIDS) Act,” to
18 combat manipulative design features, unhealthy marketing
19 practices, and the amplification of harmful content that make the
20 internet hazardous for children today.