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SENATE BILL NO. 905  
AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE  
(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Education and Health  
on January 23, 2025)  
(Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator Stanley)

A *BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding in Chapter 3 of Title 22.1 a section numbered 22.1-24.2 and by adding a section numbered 22.1-212.1:3, relating to school boards; Internet safety education program; Internet Safety Advisory Council established.*

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding in Chapter 3 of Title 22.1 a section numbered 22.1-24.2 and by adding a section numbered 22.1-212.1:3 as follows:**

**§ 22.1-24.2. Internet Safety Advisory Council.**

A. *The Superintendent shall establish and appoint members to the Internet Safety Advisory Council (the Council) for the purpose of advancing the goal of safe use of media and technology by students and teachers in public elementary and secondary schools in the Commonwealth.*

B. *The membership of the Council shall include at least one (i) teacher; (ii) librarian; (iii) representative of a parent-teacher organization who is a parent of a school-age child; (iv) school administrator; (v) student; and (vi) individual with expertise in Internet safety and such other individuals as the Superintendent deems appropriate, provided that the membership of the Council shall not exceed 12.*

C. *The Council shall:*

1. *Develop, annually review, and update as necessary, after study and consideration of a variety of sources and perspectives, guidelines on model policies and best practices relating to Internet safety for school boards in the Commonwealth that enable such school boards to better support the Internet safety of all students and teachers in the local school division;*

2. *Develop and submit to the Board recommendations on model instructional practices and best practices for the safe use of media and technology by students and teachers in public elementary and secondary schools in the Commonwealth; and*

3. *Develop, post, and maintain on the Department's website, and update as necessary, a webpage with links to successful instructional practices, curricula, and other teacher resources used in school divisions within and outside of the Commonwealth for the safe use of media and technology by students and teachers.*

**§ 22.1-212.1:3. Internet safety education program.**

*Each school board shall adopt policies (i) requiring all elementary and secondary schools in the local school division to provide to each student in grades three through 12 at least once each school year an Internet safety education program that shall be based on peer-to-peer observational learning and modeling concepts but (ii) permitting the parent of any such student to opt his child out of participating in such program.*

**2. That the provisions of § 22.1-24.2 of the Code of Virginia, as created by this act, shall expire on July 1, 2026.**

**3. That the Internet Safety Advisory Council established by § 22.1-24.2 of the Code of Virginia, as created by this act, shall, for the purpose of maximizing existing resources and avoiding duplicative work in developing the guidelines, recommendations, and webpage relating to Internet safety best practices, model instructional practices, and model policies pursuant to subsection C of § 22.1-24.2 of the Code of Virginia, as created by this act, (i) review and update as necessary the model policy, model instructional practices, and any other instructional materials or resources developed by the Internet Safety Advisory Council established pursuant to Chapter 776 of the Acts of Assembly of 2022 and (ii) use, to the fullest extent possible, such updated model policy, model instructional practices, and other instructional materials or resources to develop such guidelines, recommendations, and webpage. The Internet Safety Advisory Council shall submit to the Board of Education and the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Education and Health and the House Committee on Education no later than October 31, 2025, a report on its progress that details its review of updates to such materials set forth in clause (i) and its use of such updated materials in developing the guidelines, recommendations, and webpage relating to Internet safety best practices, model instructional practices, and model policies pursuant to the provisions of this act.**

**4. That, prior to adopting the policies required pursuant to § 22.1-212.1:3 of the Code of Virginia, as created by this act, each school board shall consider the guidelines, recommendations, and webpage relating to Internet safety best practices, model instructional practices and model policies developed by the Internet Safety Advisory Council in accordance with subsection C of § 22.1-24.2 of the Code of Virginia, as created by this act.**

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