

26103769D

1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 171**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 6, 2026

4 *A BILL to amend and reenact § 22.1-70.2 of the Code of Virginia, relating to student instruction; internet*
5 *safety; certain topics.*

6 Patron—Askew

7 Committee Referral Pending

8 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**9 **1. That § 22.1-70.2 of the Code of Virginia is amended and reenacted as follows:**10 **§ 22.1-70.2. Acceptable internet use policies for public and private schools.**

11 A. Every two years, each local school board shall review, amend if necessary, and approve the school
 12 division's acceptable use policy for the ~~Internet~~ *internet*. At a minimum, the policy shall contain provisions
 13 that (i) are designed to prohibit use by division employees and students of the division's computer equipment
 14 and communications services for sending, receiving, viewing, or downloading illegal material via the ~~Internet~~
 15 *internet*; (ii) seek to prevent access by students to material that the school division deems to be harmful to
 16 juveniles as defined in § 18.2-390; (iii) select a technology for the division's computers having ~~Internet~~
 17 *internet* access to filter or block ~~Internet~~ *internet* access through such computers to child pornography as set
 18 out in § 18.2-374.1:1 and obscenity as defined in § 18.2-372; (iv) establish appropriate measures to be taken
 19 against persons who violate the policy; and (v) include a component on ~~Internet~~ *internet* safety for students
 20 that is integrated in a division's instructional program *that includes instruction on key modern digital safety*
 21 *topics, including online scams, misinformation, and content generated by artificial intelligence.* The policy
 22 may include such other terms, conditions, and requirements as deemed appropriate, such as requiring written
 23 parental authorization for ~~Internet~~ *internet* use by juveniles or differentiating acceptable uses among
 24 elementary, middle, and high school students.

25 Each school division's policy shall be posted on its website in accordance with § 22.1-253.13:7.
 26 Additionally, each local school division shall certify compliance with these requirements annually to the
 27 Department of Education.

28 B. The superintendent shall take such steps as he deems appropriate to implement and enforce the
 29 division's policy.

30 C. In addition to the foregoing requirements regarding public school ~~Internet~~ *internet* use policies, the
 31 principal or other chief administrator of any private school that satisfies the compulsory school attendance
 32 law pursuant to § 22.1-254 and accepts federal funds for ~~Internet~~ *internet* access shall select a technology for
 33 its computers having ~~Internet~~ *internet* access to filter or block ~~Internet~~ *internet* access through such computers
 34 to child pornography as set out in § 18.2-374.1:1 and obscenity as defined in § 18.2-372.

35 D. The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall issue guidelines to school divisions regarding
 36 instructional programs related to ~~Internet~~ *internet* safety *that includes guidance on the topics specified in*
 37 *clause (v) of subsection A.*

INTRODUCED

HB171