

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 45th Legislature (1996)

HOUSE CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION NO. 1097

By: Paulk, Benson and Perry of
the House

and

Weedn of the Senate

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution directing all state agencies and all state educational institutions to immediately remove from their computer systems all illegal obscene material and especially child pornography; directing all state agencies and all state education institutions to immediately take necessary steps to maintain computer systems that are free from all illegal obscene material and especially child pornography; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the Internet is becoming an integral part of Oklahoma's commercial, educational, and governmental operations; and

WHEREAS, state agencies and institutions of higher education within The Oklahoma State System and Higher Education are increasingly providing Internet access, including access to USENET newsgroups; and

WHEREAS, there is currently little control by state agencies or institutions of higher education within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education of subjects accessed by users of the Internet; and

WHEREAS, it is widely known that, in addition to excellent educational material, certain USENET newsgroups contain the vilest forms of obscenity and child pornography; and

WHEREAS, these same USENET newsgroups can be found on the computer systems of state agencies and institutions of higher education within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education; and

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Legislature does not embrace censorship but over the years has addressed the harmful effects of obscenity, pornography and especially child pornography on Oklahoma's women, children and families by providing criminal penalties for possession and distribution of illegal obscene and child pornography; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court has declared such material unprotected by the First Amendment; and

WHEREAS, computer network systems which allow access to USENET newsgroups do so by importing the material in the newsgroups, storing such material on local computer systems, and upon request by distributing the material to local users from those local computer systems; and

WHEREAS, operators of computer network systems that allow access to USENET newsgroups make content decisions concerning which newsgroups to import, which newsgroups to block from importing, and how long to store newsgroup material; and

WHEREAS, no public funds should ever be used to accumulate and distribute illegal material which is by law obscene or pornographic.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE 45TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE SENATE CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT all state agencies and all institutions of higher education within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education be directed to immediately cease distributing, making available and storing such material and to immediately remove from their computer systems all illegal obscene material and especially all child pornography, including, but not limited to, such material that is a part of USENET newsgroups stored on their local computer systems.

THAT all state agencies and all institutions of higher education within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education be directed to take necessary steps to maintain computer systems that are free from all illegal obscene materials and especially child pornography.

THAT a copy of this resolution be dispatched to the chief administrative officers of all state agencies and all institutions of higher education within The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education.

45-2-9834

MCD