

# SENATE BILL 1041

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By: **Senators Rosapepe, Bates, Conway, Currie, Feldman, Ferguson, Guzzone, Kagan, Kelley, King, Lee, Madaleno, McFadden, Peters, Ramirez, Salling, Simonaire, and Zucker**

Introduced and read first time: February 17, 2016

Assigned to: Rules

Re-referred to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs, February 19, 2016

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 31, 2016

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – ~~Digital Equity for All Act~~ Physical and Digital Infrastructure in the**  
3 **Public Schools – Assessment**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Department of Education ~~to develop and adopt~~  
5 ~~certain infrastructure standards on or before a certain date; requiring certain local~~  
6 ~~school systems to meet certain infrastructure standards and implement and consider~~  
7 ~~certain policies related to certain digital devices for certain purposes on or before a~~  
8 ~~certain date; establishing the Digital Equity for All Grant Program and providing for~~  
9 ~~the purpose and duration of the Program; requiring the Department to administer~~  
10 ~~the Program; authorizing the Department to establish certain policies, procedures,~~  
11 ~~and regulations to implement the Program; requiring that certain funds for the~~  
12 ~~Program be provided in the State budget in certain years; requiring the Department~~  
13 ~~to submit certain reports on or before certain dates; defining certain terms; and~~  
14 ~~generally relating to the Digital Equity for All Act, in cooperation and coordination~~  
15 with certain local school systems, to conduct a certain assessment of certain  
16 infrastructure needed for certain reasons on or before a certain date; providing for  
17 the contents of a certain assessment; requiring a certain assessment to be submitted  
18 to certain committees of the General Assembly in accordance with a certain provision  
19 of law on or before a certain date; and generally relating to the physical and digital  
20 infrastructure needs of public schools in the State.

21 ~~BY adding to~~

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



~~Article — Education~~

~~Section 7-121~~

~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~

~~(2014 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)~~

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
That ~~the Laws of Maryland read as follows:~~

(a) On or before December 1, 2016, the State Department of Education, in cooperation and coordination with the local school systems in the State, shall conduct an assessment of the physical and digital infrastructure needed to support the integration of digital devices into the State's education program for all public school students on or before December 31, 2019.

(b) The assessment required under subsection (a) of this section shall include:

(1) a survey of current Internet infrastructure and digital device availability in Maryland's public schools;

(2) a cost-estimate of bringing all Maryland public schools up to the level of being able to support one device per student;

(3) any procurement avenues that may prove useful in providing digital devices and related equipment to students across multiple local school systems; and

(4) a cost-estimate of options for providing one device per student, including bring-your-own-device programs.

(c) On or before December 15, 2016, the assessment required under this section shall be submitted in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Committee on Ways and Means.

~~Article — Education~~

~~7-121.~~

~~(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED:~~

~~(2) "DIGITAL DEVICE" MEANS A LAPTOP COMPUTER, SMART PHONE, OR TABLET THAT HAS ACCESS TO THE INTERNET.~~

~~(3) "PROGRAM" MEANS THE DIGITAL EQUITY FOR ALL GRANT PROGRAM.~~

1 ~~(B) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2016, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DEVELOP~~  
2 ~~AND ADOPT INFRASTRUCTURE STANDARDS THAT SUPPORT THE USE OF DIGITAL~~  
3 ~~DEVICES ON A RATIO OF ONE DEVICE TO ONE STUDENT.~~

4 ~~(C) (1) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2019, EACH LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM~~  
5 ~~SHALL:~~

6 ~~(I) MEET THE INFRASTRUCTURE STANDARDS ESTABLISHED BY~~  
7 ~~THE DEPARTMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION; AND~~

8 ~~(II) IMPLEMENT A POLICY THAT PROVIDES FOR THE USE OF A~~  
9 ~~DIGITAL DEVICE BY EVERY STUDENT DURING THE SCHOOL DAY; AND~~

10 ~~(III) CONSIDER A POLICY THAT ALLOWS AND ENCOURAGES EACH~~  
11 ~~STUDENT WHO HAS A DIGITAL DEVICE AT HOME TO BRING THE DEVICE TO SCHOOL~~  
12 ~~TO BE USED FOR INSTRUCTIONAL PURPOSES.~~

13 ~~(2) THE DIGITAL DEVICE REQUIRED IN PARAGRAPH (1)(II) OF THIS~~  
14 ~~SUBSECTION MAY BE:~~

15 ~~(I) PROVIDED TO A STUDENT BY THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM;~~  
16 ~~OR~~

17 ~~(II) A PERSONAL DIGITAL DEVICE FROM THE STUDENT'S HOME.~~

18 ~~(D) (1) (I) THERE IS A GRANT PROGRAM IN THE STATE KNOWN AS THE~~  
19 ~~DIGITAL EQUITY FOR ALL GRANT PROGRAM.~~

20 ~~(II) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO ENCOURAGE LOCAL~~  
21 ~~SCHOOL SYSTEMS TO:~~

22 ~~1. USE DIGITAL DEVICES ON A RATIO OF ONE DEVICE TO~~  
23 ~~ONE STUDENT;~~

24 ~~2. DEVELOP POLICIES THAT ALLOW AND ENCOURAGE~~  
25 ~~STUDENTS TO BRING PERSONAL DIGITAL DEVICES FROM HOME TO SCHOOL; AND~~

26 ~~3. DEVELOP INNOVATIVE USES OF TECHNOLOGY TO~~  
27 ~~ENHANCE CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR~~  
28 ~~STUDENTS.~~

29 ~~(III) THE PROGRAM SHALL BEGIN JULY 1, 2017, AND LAST FOR~~  
30 ~~5 YEARS.~~

1           ~~(2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM.~~

2           ~~(3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH:~~

3                   ~~(I) APPLICATION AND AWARD PROCEDURES; AND~~

4                   ~~(II) ANY OTHER POLICIES, PROCEDURES, OR REGULATIONS~~  
5 ~~NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM.~~

6           ~~(4) FOR FISCAL YEARS 2018 THROUGH 2022, THE GOVERNOR SHALL~~  
7 ~~INCLUDE \$3,500,000 IN THE STATE BUDGET ANNUALLY TO IMPLEMENT THE~~  
8 ~~PROGRAM.~~

9           ~~(5) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 EACH YEAR FROM 2017 THROUGH~~  
10 ~~2023, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN~~  
11 ~~ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON THE~~  
12 ~~IMPLEMENTATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM.~~

13           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
14 1, 2016.

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.