

2021 -- H 5934

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2021

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A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

Introduced By: Representatives Ranglin-Vassell, Ajello, Fogarty, Alzate, Barros, Biah,
and Henries

Date Introduced: February 25, 2021

Referred To: House Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The title of Chapter 16-21.6 of the General Laws entitled "Internet Filtering
2 in Schools" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 ~~CHAPTER 16-21.6~~

4 ~~Internet Filtering in Schools~~

5 CHAPTER 16-21.6

6 STUDENT ACCESS TO INTERNET

7 SECTION 2. Chapter 16-21.6 of the General Laws entitled "Internet Filtering in Schools"
8 is hereby amended by adding thereto the following section:

9 **16-21.6-2 Access to high-speed Internet.**

10 (a) Every school district shall ensure that all students in grades Kindergarten through
11 twelve (K-12), enrolled in Rhode Island public elementary and secondary schools, have access to
12 high-speed Internet. Upon request of the student's parent and/or legal guardian, the school district
13 shall furnish the student with high-speed Internet.

14 (b) There is hereby established an Internet reimbursement fund for which the general
15 assembly shall make a specific appropriation. The department of elementary and secondary
16 education shall administer the appropriation. School districts shall submit to the department of
17 elementary and secondary education evidence of the costs to furnish high-speed Internet to students
18 in accordance with subsection (a) of this section. The costs shall be reimbursed from the Internet
19 reimbursement fund by the department of elementary and secondary education upon presentation

1 [by a school district of the evidence of these costs.](#)

2 SECTION 3. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
A N A C T
RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

- 1 This act would require all school districts to provide students enrolled in grades
- 2 Kindergarten through twelve (K-12) access to high-speed Internet.
- 3 This act would take effect on July 1, 2021.

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