



**State Fiscal Note for Bill
Number: 2022-H-6666**

Date of State Budget Office Approval: Tuesday, February 15, 2022

Date Requested: Wednesday, January 26, 2022

Date Due: Saturday, February 5, 2022

Impact on Expenditures

Impact on Revenues

FY 2022	-	FY 2022	-
FY 2023	\$41,640,000	FY 2023	-
FY 2024	\$20,640,000	FY 2024	-

Explanation by State Budget Office: This bill establishes RIGL Section 16-21.6-2, entitled “Student Access to Internet.” It asserts that all k-12 students shall have access to “high-speed Internet,” and establishes an “Internet Reimbursement Fund” for the purpose of reimbursing districts for costs associated with furnishing high-speed Internet for attending students. The General Assembly shall make a specific appropriation for the reimbursement fund.

This act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

Comments on Sources of Funds: As proposed, the “Internet Reimbursement Fund” is financed using general revenues, likely allocated to the Education Aid program of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE). With an effective date of July 1, 2022, there is no estimated fiscal impact until FY 2023.

Summary of Facts and Assumptions: Last year, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education partnered with OSHEAN on a proof of concept (POC) for 3 months to give access to students in Providence and Central Falls who had limited to no internet access in their households. Total hardware costs for each district was \$350,000 and consisted of eight Citizens Broadband Radio Service units and sixteen antennas located at 2 schools in each district. The POC also consisted of an annual cost of \$344,000 per district. The annual service fee included third party project management and maintenance.

The POC is utilized as a framework for providing an estimated cost associated with a conceptual implementation. The actual technological approach may vary by district as the CBRS technology may not be appropriate for geographically-dispersed districts. To the extent that some districts pursue alternative approaches, this fiscal note assumes that they bear a similar expenditure burden as the POC.

The reported fiscal impact takes the per district cost of the POC and applies it to all 60 Local Education Authorities (LEAs) in Rhode Island.

Hardware Costs (one time cost):
60 LEAs X \$350,000 = \$21,000,000

Each district will be provided with eight Citizens Broadband Radio Service (CBRS) unit and sixteen antennas which would be located at 2 schools in the district.
Annual Service fee which includes third party project management and maintenance:
60 LEAs X \$344,000 = \$20,640,000

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This estimate assumes, as stated in the legislation, that it applies to all students in RI K-12 public schools. If it only applies to the 36 school districts then the costs would be reduced accordingly. The Department of Secondary and Elementary Education has not indicated the existence of new data to inform an updated estimate. This estimate is therefore equivalent to that made of this bill's stipulations in the previous year.

This analysis does not contemplate any new state investments in broadband infrastructure, which have the potential to change the fiscal impact included in this analysis.

*Summary of Fiscal
Impact:*

FY 2022:

As stated above, this bill will impact school years beginning after July 1, 2022, thus FY 2022 will not be affected.


FY 2023:

Hardware Costs: \$21,000,000
Annual Service Fee: \$20,640,000
Total FY 2023: \$41,640,000

FY 2024:

Annual Service Fee: \$20,640,000

Budget Office Signature:



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