

# 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

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education – Digital Equity for All Act**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Department of Education to develop and adopt  
4 certain infrastructure standards on or before a certain date; requiring certain local  
5 school systems to meet certain infrastructure standards and implement and consider  
6 certain policies related to certain digital devices for certain purposes on or before a  
7 certain date; establishing the Digital Equity for All Grant Program and providing for  
8 the purpose and duration of the Program; requiring the Department to administer  
9 the Program; authorizing the Department to establish certain policies, procedures,  
10 and regulations to implement the Program; requiring that certain funds for the  
11 Program be provided in the State budget in certain years; requiring the Department  
12 to submit certain reports on or before certain dates; defining certain terms; and  
13 generally relating to the Digital Equity for All Act.

14 BY adding to

15 Article – Education

16 Section 7–121

17 Annotated Code of Maryland

18 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2015 Supplement)

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

21 **Article – Education**

22 **7–121.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS**  
2 **INDICATED.**

3                   **(2) “DIGITAL DEVICE” MEANS A LAPTOP COMPUTER, SMART PHONE,**  
4 **OR TABLET THAT HAS ACCESS TO THE INTERNET.**

5                   **(3) “PROGRAM” MEANS THE DIGITAL EQUITY FOR ALL GRANT**  
6 **PROGRAM.**

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

10           **(C) (1) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2019, EACH LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM**  
11 **SHALL:**

12                   **(I) MEET THE INFRASTRUCTURE STANDARDS ESTABLISHED BY**  
13 **THE DEPARTMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION; AND**

14                   **(II) IMPLEMENT A POLICY THAT PROVIDES FOR THE USE OF A**  
15 **DIGITAL DEVICE BY EVERY STUDENT DURING THE SCHOOL DAY; AND**

16                   **(III) CONSIDER A POLICY THAT ALLOWS AND ENCOURAGES EACH**  
17 **STUDENT WHO HAS A DIGITAL DEVICE AT HOME TO BRING THE DEVICE TO SCHOOL**  
18 **TO BE USED FOR INSTRUCTIONAL PURPOSES.**

19                   **(2) THE DIGITAL DEVICE REQUIRED IN PARAGRAPH (1)(II) OF THIS**  
20 **SUBSECTION MAY BE:**

21                   **(I) PROVIDED TO A STUDENT BY THE LOCAL SCHOOL SYSTEM;**  
22 **OR**

23                   **(II) A PERSONAL DIGITAL DEVICE FROM THE STUDENT’S HOME.**

24           **(D) (1) (I) THERE IS A GRANT PROGRAM IN THE STATE KNOWN AS THE**  
25 **DIGITAL EQUITY FOR ALL GRANT PROGRAM.**

26                   **(II) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO ENCOURAGE LOCAL**  
27 **SCHOOL SYSTEMS TO:**

28                           **1. USE DIGITAL DEVICES ON A RATIO OF ONE DEVICE TO**  
29 **ONE STUDENT;**

1                   **2. DEVELOP POLICIES THAT ALLOW AND ENCOURAGE**  
2 **STUDENTS TO BRING PERSONAL DIGITAL DEVICES FROM HOME TO SCHOOL; AND**

3                   **3. DEVELOP INNOVATIVE USES OF TECHNOLOGY TO**  
4 **ENHANCE CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR**  
5 **STUDENTS.**

6                   **(III) THE PROGRAM SHALL BEGIN JULY 1, 2017, AND LAST FOR**  
7 **5 YEARS.**

8                   **(2) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER THE PROGRAM.**

9                   **(3) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ESTABLISH:**

10                   **(I) APPLICATION AND AWARD PROCEDURES; AND**

11                   **(II) ANY OTHER POLICIES, PROCEDURES, OR REGULATIONS**  
12 **NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM.**

13                   **(4) FOR FISCAL YEARS 2018 THROUGH 2022, THE GOVERNOR SHALL**  
14 **INCLUDE \$3,500,000 IN THE STATE BUDGET ANNUALLY TO IMPLEMENT THE**  
15 **PROGRAM.**

16                   **(5) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 EACH YEAR FROM 2017 THROUGH**  
17 **2023, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN**  
18 **ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1246 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON THE**  
19 **IMPLEMENTATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM.**

20                   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July  
21 1, 2016.