

# SENATE BILL 821

F1, B1, B5

4lr2362

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By: **Senators Rosapepe, Conway, Feldman, Ferguson, King, Madaleno, and Montgomery**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2014

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Digital Equity for All Maryland Students Act of 2014**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring all students to have certain access to digital technology  
4 in the classroom on or before a certain school year; establishing a Technology  
5 Infrastructure Improvement Program to be administered by the Interagency  
6 Committee on School Construction; requiring the State to distribute grants from  
7 certain sources to county boards of education in certain years; authorizing the  
8 grant amount to be apportioned between certain sources; requiring the  
9 Interagency Committee to make certain considerations when allocating a  
10 certain grant; authorizing certain uses of a certain grant; requiring the State  
11 Department of Education to make a certain report by a certain date; and  
12 generally relating to the technology in schools.

13 BY adding to  
14 Article – Education  
15 Section 5–206.1  
16 Annotated Code of Maryland  
17 (2008 Replacement Volume and 2013 Supplement)

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

20 **Article – Education**

21 **5–206.1.**

22 **(A) ON OR BEFORE THE 2016–2017 SCHOOL YEAR ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
23 **STUDENTS SHALL HAVE EQUAL AND UBIQUITOUS ACCESS TO DIGITAL**  
24 **TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM TO OPTIMIZE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1           **(B) THERE IS A TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT**  
2 **PROGRAM TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON**  
3 **SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION.**

4           **(C) (1) IN FISCAL YEARS 2015 THROUGH 2017, THE STATE SHALL**  
5 **DISTRIBUTE GRANTS FROM AN APPROPRIATION IN THE STATE BUDGET OR**  
6 **GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS TO COUNTY BOARDS FOR THE TECHNOLOGY**  
7 **INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.**

8           **(2) THE TOTAL GRANT AMOUNT PROVIDED FOR THE**  
9 **TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM UNDER THIS**  
10 **SECTION SHALL BE APPORTIONED BETWEEN THE STATE BUDGET AND GENERAL**  
11 **OBLIGATION BONDS AS APPROPRIATE.**

12           **(D) THE INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION**  
13 **SHALL CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING WHEN ALLOCATING THE GRANTS TO COUNTY**  
14 **BOARDS:**

15                   **(1) THE APPROPRIATE STATE AND LOCAL COST SHARE**  
16 **PROPORTIONS; AND**

17                   **(2) THE TECHNOLOGY NEEDS OF A SCHOOL.**

18           **(E) THE GRANTS MAY BE USED TO:**

19                   **(1) INCREASE THE BANDWIDTH CAPACITY OF A SCHOOL;**

20                   **(2) INSTALL ALL NECESSARY WIRING AND EQUIPMENT TO**  
21 **PROVIDE WIRELESS INTERNET CONNECTIONS THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL**  
22 **BUILDING;**

23                   **(3) PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SOFTWARE;**

24                   **(4) PROVIDE ADDITIONAL HARDWARE INCLUDING DESKTOP**  
25 **COMPUTERS, LAPTOP COMPUTERS, AND TABLETS;**

26                   **(5) HIRE ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL STAFF TO MAINTAIN THE**  
27 **TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE AND EQUIPMENT IN A SCHOOL;**

28                   **(6) INSTALL ADDITIONAL ELECTRIC CAPACITY NECESSARY TO**  
29 **SUPPORT THE TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE AND EQUIPMENT IN A SCHOOL;**  
30 **AND**

1           **(7) PROVIDE ANY OTHER ITEMS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE OR**  
2 **SUPPORT THE TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE OF A SCHOOL.**

3           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

4           (a) The State Department of Education shall study the technological needs of  
5 each school so that Maryland students are able to fully use technological  
6 advancements in the delivery of education and teachers are able to fully incorporate  
7 the use of digital technology in the classroom.

8           (b) The study shall identify for each school the cost to provide:

9                   (1) the bandwidth necessary to deliver digital access to students and  
10 teachers;

11                   (2) the wiring and equipment required to provide wireless Internet  
12 connections throughout the school buildings;

13                   (3) additional software;

14                   (4) additional hardware including desktop computers, laptop  
15 computers, and tablets;

16                   (5) additional technical staff to maintain the technology infrastructure  
17 and equipment in a school;

18                   (6) additional electric capacity necessary to support the technology  
19 infrastructure and equipment in a school; and

20                   (7) any other items necessary to provide or support the technology  
21 infrastructure of a school.

22           (c) The Department shall indicate from the study how to develop a State and  
23 local cost–share formula for the needed technological infrastructure enhancements.

24           (d) The study shall develop a uniform State policy that requires each county  
25 board of education to adopt a “bring your own device” policy that allows students and  
26 school personnel to connect personal electronic devices to a school’s technology  
27 infrastructure.

28           (e) The study shall provide a detailed cost assessment of the technological  
29 needs of the schools to be included in the operating and capital budget for fiscal year  
30 2016 in order to carry out this Act.

1           (f)     On or before July 1, 2014, the State Department of Education shall report  
2 its findings to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State  
3 Government Article.

4           SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
5 June 1, 2014.