AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

Introduced By: Representatives Ranglin-Vassell, Ajello, Fogarty, Alzate, Barros, Biah, and Henries
Date Introduced: January 06, 2022
Referred To: House Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

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

CHAPTER 16-21.6

Internet Filtering in Schools

CHAPTER 16-21.6

STUDENT ACCESS TO INTERNET

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

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

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

(b) There is hereby established an Internet reimbursement fund for which the general assembly shall make a specific appropriation. The department of elementary and secondary education shall administer the appropriation. School districts shall submit to the department of elementary and secondary education evidence of the costs to furnish high-speed Internet to students in accordance with subsection (a) of this section. The costs shall be reimbursed from the Internet 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, 2022.
EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
AN ACT
RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

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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, 2022.