

1 A bill to be entitled

2 An act relating to discounted computers and Internet
3 access for students; creating a program to offer
4 discounted computers and Internet access to public school
5 students and students in home education programs in grades
6 5 through 12; requiring the Department of Education to
7 negotiate terms with computer manufacturers, certain
8 nonprofit corporations, and broadband Internet access
9 providers; requiring the State Board of Education to adopt
10 rules, including rules for provision of technical training
11 to students; requiring the Digital Divide Council to
12 implement a pilot project to assist low-income students
13 with purchasing discounted computers and Internet access
14 services; requiring the council to identify eligibility
15 criteria for participation in the pilot project; providing
16 for funding and authorizing the council to accept grants
17 to implement the pilot project; providing an effective
18 date.

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20 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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22 Section 1. Discounted computers and Internet access for
23 students.--

24 (1) There is created a program to offer computers and
25 Internet access at a discounted price to students enrolled in
26 grades 5 through 12 in a public school, including a charter
27 school, or a home education program in the state.

28 (2) The Department of Education shall negotiate with

29 computer manufacturers and with nonprofit corporations that
 30 obtain reconditioned computer hardware concerning:

31 (a) The prices of discounted computers and whether
 32 computer accessories such as printers or scanners will be
 33 offered to the students at reduced prices.

34 (b) Specialized software and hardware packages, including,
 35 but not limited to:

36 1. A word processor.

37 2. Software and hardware necessary to enable broadband
 38 Internet access.

39 3. An operating system.

40 (c) The type of warranty that is to be provided to the
 41 students and whether an extended warranty will be available to
 42 the students and under what terms.

43 (3) The Department of Education shall negotiate with
 44 broadband Internet access providers concerning the prices of
 45 discounted broadband Internet access packages. In areas in which
 46 broadband Internet access is not currently available, the
 47 department shall negotiate with non-broadband Internet access
 48 providers.

49 (4) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules
 50 concerning:

51 (a) How to integrate into this program the provision of
 52 computer or technical training to students in their respective
 53 school districts.

54 (b) How parents and students may be notified of the
 55 discounted computer and Internet access choices available.

56 (c) The distribution of eligibility certificates to the

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57 students, the locations at which discounted computers and
58 Internet access services are available for purchase, and how
59 students may obtain and pay for the equipment and services
60 covered by this program.

61 Section 2. Discounted computers and Internet access for
62 low-income students; pilot project.--

63 (1) The Digital Divide Council, in consultation with the
64 Department of Education, shall implement a pilot project to
65 assist low-income students to purchase discounted computers and
66 Internet access services as negotiated by the department. The
67 council shall identify counties, grade levels, and low-income
68 eligibility criteria for participation in the pilot project.

69 (2) The pilot project shall be funded in an amount to be
70 determined in the General Appropriations Act. The Digital Divide
71 Council is authorized to accept grants from additional public
72 and private sources to implement the pilot project.

73 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2006.