

By Senator Bracy

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1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to student access to Internet
3 connections and technology; creating s. 1000.09, F.S.;
4 establishing the Digital Inclusion Technology
5 Development Initiative; providing the purpose and goal
6 of the initiative; providing for funding; requiring
7 the initiative to submit an annual report by a
8 specified date to the Governor, the Legislature, and
9 the Commissioner of Education; establishing the
10 Initiative Educational Technology Advisory Council;
11 providing for the meetings, membership, terms of
12 office, and compensation of the council; providing for
13 expiration of the initiative; providing
14 appropriations; providing an effective date.

15
16 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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18 Section 1. Section 1000.09, Florida Statutes, is created to
19 read:

20 1000.09 Digital Inclusion Technology Development
21 Initiative; Initiative Educational Technology Advisory Council.-

22 (1) The Digital Inclusion Technology Development Initiative
23 is established as a partnership between the Department of
24 Education and an organization of its choosing.

25 (a) The purpose of the initiative is to develop
26 technologies and various approaches to bridge the divide of
27 Internet inequality throughout this state.

28 (b) The goal of the initiative is to develop and implement
29 technologies, strategies, and programs to ensure this state's

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30 students, regardless of economic status or geographic location,
31 have access to quality Internet connections and the technologies
32 needed to succeed in today's educational environment.

33 (c) Funds specifically appropriated by the Legislature for
34 the initiative shall be awarded by the department to the
35 selected organization to achieve the goals of the initiative.

36 1. The organization may, with the concurrence of the
37 department, use a portion of the awarded funds to facilitate
38 additional engagement with other pertinent organizations in this
39 state and around the world to pursue the purpose of the
40 initiative.

41 2. The organization may not use more than 5 percent of its
42 awarded funds for direct annual initiative administration or
43 coordination costs.

44 3. The initiative shall leverage state-appropriated funds
45 with additional funds from private and federal sources.

46 (d) Beginning January 15, 2024, and each January 15
47 thereafter until its expiration, the initiative shall submit a
48 report that contains an overview of its accomplishments to date
49 and priorities for subsequent years to the Governor, the
50 President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
51 Representatives, and the Commissioner of Education.

52 (2) There is established within the initiative the
53 Initiative Educational Technology Advisory Council, an advisory
54 council as defined in s. 20.03(7), which includes education and
55 technology development representatives from governmental
56 entities, private organizations, and public or private research
57 institutions. The council shall meet at least twice annually.

58 (a) The council shall be chaired by the governing officer

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59 of the organization selected by the department for the
60 initiative and shall consist of the following:

61 1. One member from a private technology company, appointed
62 by the Governor.

63 2. One member from a public or private university in this
64 state, appointed by the President of the Senate.

65 3. One member from a public or private university in this
66 state, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

67 4. Two members from the Department of Education who have
68 expertise in educational technologies, appointed by the
69 commissioner.

70 (b) Council members shall serve staggered 2-year terms and
71 may be reappointed.

72 (c) Council members shall serve without compensation, and
73 each organization represented shall cover all expenses of its
74 respective representative.

75 (3) This section expires June 30, 2027.

76 Section 2. Beginning in the 2022-2023 fiscal year, and for
77 each fiscal year thereafter through the 2026-2027 fiscal year,
78 there is appropriated the sum of \$3 million from the General
79 Revenue Fund to the Department of Education for the purpose of
80 implementing s. 1000.09, Florida Statutes.

81 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.