

## S 3924

Computer and Internet Access Equity Act

**Congress:** 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Science, Technology, Communications

**Introduced:** Jun 9, 2020

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (text: CR S2809-2810)

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (text: CR S2809-2810) (Jun 9, 2020)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/3924>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** IL • **Chamber:** Senate

### Cosponsors

*No cosponsors are listed for this bill.*

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jun 9, 2020

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 6744	Related bill	<b>May 8, 2020:</b> Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

## **Computer and Internet Access Equity Act**

This bill increases broadband service support for low-income consumers, establishes a grant program to provide internet safety education or training, and provides a tax credit for certain computer and education costs.

Specifically, the bill modifies the broadband service support program known as Lifeline, which assists low-income consumers with access to telecommunications and broadband services, to (1) give up to \$83.33 per month to a provider of Lifeline services for each low-income consumer to whom the provider supplies such services, (2) allow consumers with household incomes that are at or below 435% (rather than 135%) of the Federal Poverty Guidelines to qualify for participation in the program, and (3) allow a broadband service provider to receive Lifeline support for providing such service to a low-income consumer without being designated an eligible telecommunications carrier.

The bill also requires the Federal Communications Commission to establish a grant program to develop and implement internet safety education or training programs for low-income individuals.

Further, the bill provides a tax credit, not to exceed \$2,000 in a taxable year or \$10,000 in a lifetime, for amounts paid or incurred for technology such as computers and printers and for education on how to use such technology. The Department of the Treasury must establish a program for making advance payments of this credit.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Jun 9, 2020:** Introduced in Senate
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