

S 1023

Computer and Internet Access Equity Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: Mar 25, 2021

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (text: CR S1828-1830)

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (text: CR S1828-1830) (Mar 25, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/1023>

Sponsor

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

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

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Mar 25, 2021

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 25, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 2201	Related bill	Mar 29, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.

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) increase the amount of the payments that a provider of Lifeline services may receive for each low-income consumer to whom the provider supplies such services, (2) allow consumers with higher incomes 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 as an eligible telecommunications carrier.

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

Further, the bill provides a refundable tax credit, not to exceed \$2,000 (\$4,000 in the case of a joint return) in a taxable year or \$10,000 in a lifetime (\$20,000 in the case of a joint return), for amounts paid or incurred for computers, printers, and other education-related technology. The Department of the Treasury must establish a program for making advance payments of such credit to eligible individuals.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 25, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
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