

## S 599

Digital Equity Foundation Act of 2023

**Congress:** 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

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

**Introduced:** Mar 1, 2023

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (Mar 1, 2023)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/599>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Lujan, Ben Ray [D-NM]

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

### Cosponsors (9 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Mar 1, 2023
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Mar 1, 2023
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Mar 1, 2023
Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]	D · NM		Mar 1, 2023
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Mar 1, 2023
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Mar 1, 2023
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Mar 1, 2023
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		Mar 22, 2023
Sen. Welch, Peter [D-VT]	D · VT		Sep 19, 2023

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 1, 2023

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 HR 1412	Related bill	<b>Mar 17, 2023:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.

## **Digital Equity Foundation Act of 2023**

This bill sets out a process for establishing a foundation to raise funding for, develop programs and partnerships to, and otherwise support efforts to expand access to broadband internet and promote digital literacy, inclusion, and equity. The bill authorizes the foundation to carry out a range of activities to advance its mission, such as awarding grants and establishing for-profit subsidiaries to stimulate economic development and attract investment partners.

Specifically, the bill creates a temporary committee with members appointed by the Department of Commerce and other federal departments and agencies to set up the foundation and appoint the initial voting members of its board of directors.

Within 90 days of the establishment of the foundation, the board must convene an advisory committee to annually report on and make recommendations concerning the foundation's activities. Additionally, within one year of the bill's enactment (and with input of the advisory committee), the foundation must provide Congress with a strategic plan for its activities during the two-year period following the submission of the plan.

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) must evaluate the foundation's activities every five years, and the foundation must provide Commerce and GAO with annual audits.

### **Actions Timeline**

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- **Mar 1, 2023:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 1, 2023:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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