

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8077

To include reasonable costs for high-speed internet service in the utility allowances for families residing in public housing, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 15, 2022

Mr. FOSTER (for himself, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. RUSH, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. NEGUSE, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. BONAMICI, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. DEAN, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. BEATTY, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

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## A BILL

To include reasonable costs for high-speed internet service in the utility allowances for families residing in public housing, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Closing the Digital  
5 Divide for Students Act of 2022”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCLUSION OF HIGH-SPEED INTERNET SERVICE IN**  
2 **PUBLIC HOUSING UTILITY ALLOWANCES FOR**  
3 **CERTAIN FAMILIES.**

4 Subsection (b) of section 3 of the United States  
5 Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)) is amended  
6 by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

7 “(14) UTILITY ALLOWANCE.—A utility allow-  
8 ance under this Act for public housing shall include  
9 costs for high-speed internet service, including the  
10 cost of renting or purchasing equipment necessary to  
11 access such service and a one-time installation fee,  
12 subject to the following limitations:

13 “(A) COST.—The cost included in a utility  
14 allowance for a public housing dwelling unit  
15 pursuant to this paragraph for monthly internet  
16 service shall not—

17 “(i) exceed the lowest cost available in  
18 the area of such housing for such monthly  
19 high-speed internet service; and

20 “(ii) include any costs for cable or  
21 satellite television service or telephone serv-  
22 ice.

23 “(B) FAMILY CHOICE.—Subparagraph (A)  
24 may not be construed to prohibit a household in  
25 public housing from subscribing to—

1           “(i) a high-speed internet service the  
2           cost of which exceeds the cost described in  
3           subparagraph (A)(i); or

4           “(ii) any joint package for internet  
5           service together with cable or satellite tele-  
6           vision service or telephone service, or both.

7           “(C) QUALIFIED FAMILIES.—Costs for  
8           high-speed internet service may be included in  
9           a utility allowance only for a household that in-  
10          curs such costs and includes children who qual-  
11          ify for free and reduced price lunch pursuant to  
12          section 9 of the Richard B. Russell National  
13          School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758).

14          “(D) PROTECTION OF MINORS.—Costs for  
15          high-speed internet service may be included in  
16          a utility allowance for a household only if the  
17          internet service provider, upon initial provision  
18          of such service for a household, provides the  
19          household with a specific technology capable of  
20          blocking or filtering internet access to visual de-  
21          pictions described in section 254(h)(5)(B)(i) of  
22          the Communications Act of 1937 (47 U.S.C.  
23          254(h)(5)(B)(i)) that provides a level of protec-  
24          tion against access by minors to such depictions  
25          through the internet that is at least as great as

1           the level of protection provided by a technology  
2           protection measure (as such term is defined in  
3           paragraph (7) of such section 254(h)) that  
4           meets the requirements for certification under  
5           such paragraph, as determined by the Sec-  
6           retary.”.

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