



Rep. Robin Kelly

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1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 5244

2 AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend House Bill 5244, AS AMENDED, by  
3 replacing everything after the enacting clause with the  
4 following:

5 "Section 1. Short Title. This Act may be cited as the  
6 I-Connect Computer Technology Act.

7 Section 5. Purpose. The General Assembly finds that in the  
8 modern, knowledge-based economy of the 21st century it is  
9 critical that all students have access to modern educational  
10 technology. The General Assembly further finds that universal  
11 access to portable computers has been found to increase student  
12 assessment test scores and encourage student and parent  
13 collaborations in learning. It is the duty of the State to  
14 provide new ways to equalize and advance educational  
15 opportunities for all students in public schools. In order to  
16 meet the goal of universal access to modern educational  
17 technology, the General Assembly finds it necessary to provide  
18 students in public schools with access to portable computers.

19 Section 10. Definitions. In this Act:

20 "Board" means the I-Connect Computer Technology Board.

21 "ISBE" means the Illinois State Board of Education.

22 "Low income student" means a pupil aged 3 to 17, inclusive,  
23 who is (i) from a family receiving public aid, (ii) living in

1 an institution for neglected or delinquent children, (iii)  
2 being supported in a foster home with public funds, or (iv)  
3 eligible to receive free or reduced-price lunches.

4 "Program" means the I-Connect Computer Technology Program.

5 Section 15. I-Connect Computer Technology Program.

6 (a) The Board shall, in conjunction with the Illinois State  
7 Board of Education, establish and implement the I-Connect  
8 Computer Technology Program, which must meet all of the  
9 following standards:

10 (1) Beginning with the 2006-2007 school year and each  
11 school year thereafter, each student entering 7th grade who  
12 attends a public school meeting the criteria established in  
13 Sections 22 and 23 of this Act shall receive a portable  
14 computer. Additionally, each teacher teaching 7th grade  
15 students in a classroom at a public school shall receive a  
16 portable computer. Portable computers shall be delivered  
17 to each school district and shall become the property of  
18 the school district. School districts are responsible for  
19 distributing the computers to students and for  
20 establishing rules for student use of the computers. Each  
21 portable computer must include software and other learning  
22 technologies capable of being used in a classroom  
23 environment.

24 (2) Each school taking part in the I-Connect Computer  
25 Technology Program shall receive teacher technology  
26 training and professional development. Teachers that take  
27 part in technology training courses, seminars, or other  
28 related courses of instruction may credit that time towards  
29 their continuing professional development requirement,  
30 pursuant to Sections 21-2 and 21-14 of the School Code.  
31 Professional development provided in accordance with this  
32 Act must be sufficient to ensure optimal use of software  
33 and other learning technologies associated with using

1 portable computers.

2 (3) A statewide or regional plan for external and  
3 internal network and technical support must be created to  
4 allow for contracts for technical support with private  
5 businesses, governmental entities, colleges or  
6 universities, or not-for-profit corporations.

7 (4) A set-aside funding mechanism must be established  
8 to cover the costs of replacement portable computers and  
9 parts. Nothing in this Section shall preclude a contract  
10 with a vendor that places the financial duty on the vendor  
11 to cover those costs in part or in whole.

12 (b) ISBE is authorized to enter into contracts and  
13 memorandums of understanding with private parties and other  
14 State agencies to carry out its functions under this Act. A  
15 competitive procurement process for the selection of vendors  
16 for the purchase of portable computers and related technical  
17 support and professional development shall be established.  
18 Each Regional Office of Education shall select one vendor that  
19 has responded to the procurement process for the purchase of  
20 portable computers and related technical support and  
21 professional development for program recipients in its region.

22 Section 20. I-Connect Computer Technology Board.

23 (a) There is created the I-Connect Computer Technology  
24 Board. The Board shall be comprised of 11 members as follows:  
25 the Lieutenant Governor as Chair; 5 members appointed by the  
26 Governor; one member appointed by the President of the Senate,  
27 one member appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate, one  
28 member appointed by the Speaker of the House of  
29 Representatives, and one member appointed by the Minority  
30 Leader of the House of Representatives; and the State  
31 Superintendent of Education or his or her designee.

32 (b) Each of the Governor's appointees must have a  
33 background in at least one of the following areas:

- 1 (1) computer technical support;
- 2 (2) education administration at the grade K through 12
- 3 level;
- 4 (3) teaching 6th through 12th grade students;
- 5 (4) community outreach; or
- 6 (5) the Illinois Century Network or other means of
- 7 accessing the internet in schools.

8 (c) All members shall serve 4-year terms, except that  
9 members appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve for the  
10 remainder of the vacated term. Vacancies shall be filled in the  
11 same manner as the initial appointment.

12 (d) Board members shall receive no compensation other than  
13 reimbursement for necessary travel expenses, which shall be  
14 reimbursed by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

15 Section 22. Program participants.

16 (a) Subject to appropriation, participation for each  
17 school year shall be limited to (i) no more than 2 public  
18 schools in each Regional Office of Education region, (ii) no  
19 more than 30 public schools in non-Chicago Cook County, and  
20 (iii) no more than 30 public schools in Chicago. Nothing in  
21 this Section shall be construed to limit the number of schools  
22 that may apply for the Program.

23 (b) Priority shall be given to those schools where at least  
24 40% of the students are low income students, as defined in  
25 Section 10 of this Act.

26 (c) All participating schools must comply with requests  
27 from ISBE and the Board for information relating to the annual  
28 report requirement of Section 25 of this Act.

29 (d) All participating schools shall designate at least one  
30 teacher or administrator who shall have the primary  
31 responsibility for ensuring that computers are being used and  
32 maintained.

1 Section 23. Application.

2 (a) After a majority of members of the Board are appointed,  
3 an application shall be developed by the Board and mailed to  
4 the principal of every public school in Illinois that educates  
5 7th grade students.

6 (b) The application shall, at a minimum, contain all of the  
7 following:

8 (1) A deadline for returning the application for  
9 entrance into the Program.

10 (2) An inquiry into the adequacy of the school's  
11 infrastructure to manage the computers.

12 (3) A requirement to provide the name of the school  
13 coordinator required under Section 22 of this Act.

14 (4) A requirement to provide the number of 7th graders  
15 anticipated for the attendance center for the school year  
16 in which the portable computers would be delivered.

17 Section 25. Annual Report. By no later than October 1st of  
18 each year, the Board, in conjunction with ISBE, shall submit an  
19 annual report to the Governor and the members of the General  
20 Assembly on the progress of the I-Connect Computer Technology  
21 Program. The report must include, at a minimum, all of the  
22 following:

23 (1) The number of students receiving portable  
24 computers.

25 (2) An accounting of all State, local, and federal  
26 funds used to implement the Program.

27 (3) A projection for the cost of implementing the  
28 Program in the next school year.

29 (4) If available, the identification of software  
30 included on computers provided under the Program.

31 (5) The academic progress of the students using the  
32 computers.

33 (6) If available, a comparison of academic progress

1 between those students using the computers in a specific  
2 curriculum and those who are not.

3 (7) If available, the quality and quantity of increased  
4 student proficiency with technology.

5 (8) If available, teacher involvement and performance.

6 (9) Of those students taking the computer home, the  
7 number of households in which persons other than the  
8 student use the computer.

9 (10) Recommendations for Program improvement.

10 Section 30. I-Connect Computer Technology Fund.

11 (a) The I-Connect Computer Technology Fund is created as a  
12 special fund in the State treasury. All funds deposited into  
13 the I-Connect Computer Technology Fund shall be used, subject  
14 to appropriation, for the purposes of this Act.

15 (b) Any funds appropriated by the General Assembly for the  
16 purposes of the I-Connect Computer Technology Program, as well  
17 as any gift, grant, or donation of any kind given for the  
18 I-Connect Computer Technology Program from any source,  
19 including from a foundation, private entity, governmental  
20 entity, or institution of higher education, may be used to  
21 implement the I-Connect Computer Technology Program.

22 Section 35. Local authority. It is the sole duty of school  
23 districts, school administrators, and school teachers to make  
24 decisions relating to the use of portable computers provided  
25 under this Act, including determining: (i) standards for  
26 allowing students to take computers off school property; (ii)  
27 the courses or curriculums best suited for the computers; and  
28 (iii) the use of particular software or learning technologies.

29 Section 40. Rules. ISBE shall adopt rules to implement and  
30 administer this Act.

1           Section 90. The State Finance Act is amended by adding  
2 Section 5.663 as follows:

3           (30 ILCS 105/5.663 new)

4           Sec. 5.663. The I-Connect Computer Technology Fund.

5           Section 98. The State Mandates Act is amended by adding  
6 Section 8.30 as follows:

7           (30 ILCS 805/8.30 new)

8           Sec. 8.30. Exempt mandate. Notwithstanding Sections 6 and 8  
9 of this Act, no reimbursement by the State is required for the  
10 implementation of any mandate created by this amendatory Act of  
11 the 94th General Assembly.

12           Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
13 becoming law.".