



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB4561

Introduced 1/30/2026, by Rep. Aarón M. Ortíz

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Illinois Low Income Broadband Assistance Program Act. Requires the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to establish an Illinois Low Income Broadband Assistance Program (Program) to ensure the availability and affordability of broadband service to low income families in order to access remote learning and work platforms. Provides that the Department shall coordinate with local administrative agencies to determine eligibility for the Program, provided that eligible income shall be no more than 150% of the federal poverty level. Provides that families whose annual household income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty level shall be eligible for free broadband service. Provides that a credit of at least \$9.95 a month for broadband services shall be payable monthly to: (i) families whose annual household income is above 135% of the federal poverty level but no greater than 150% of the federal poverty level; and (ii) families that include at least one adult person or dependent child who qualifies for or participates in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the Supplemental Security Income program, Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefits Programs, and other specified assistance programs. Provides that the \$9.95 broadband service credit may be adjusted according to family size. Provides that families who participate in the federal Lifeline program or any other State Internet service subsidy program shall not be eligible to participate in the Illinois Low Income Broadband Assistance Program. Provides bill payment requirements. Provides for the adoption of rules.

LRB104 18336 HLH 31776 b

1 AN ACT concerning State government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Illinois Low Income Broadband Assistance Program Act.

6 Section 5. Definitions. As used in this Section:

7 "Broadband service" means a high speed service connection
8 to the public Internet capable of supporting, in at least one
9 direction, a speed in excess of 200 kilobits per second (kbps)
10 to the network demarcation point at the subscriber's premises.

11 "Department" means the Department of Commerce and Economic
12 Opportunity.

13 "Economic unit" means all adult individuals contributing
14 to and sharing in the income and expenses of a household.

15 "Family" or "household" means any individual or group of
16 individuals who live together at the same address as one
17 economic unit.

18 "Federal poverty level" means the poverty guidelines
19 updated periodically in the Federal Register by the U.S.
20 Department of Health and Human Services. These guidelines set
21 poverty levels by family size.

22 Section 10. Illinois Low Income Broadband Assistance

1 Program. The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
2 shall establish an Illinois Low Income Broadband Assistance
3 Program to ensure the availability and affordability of
4 broadband service to low income families. The Department shall
5 coordinate with local administrative agencies to determine
6 eligibility for the Program, provided that eligible income
7 shall be no more than 150% of the federal poverty level.

8 Section 15. Eligible families.

9 (a) Families whose annual household income is at or below
10 135% of the federal poverty level shall be eligible for free
11 broadband service.

12 (b) A credit of at least \$9.95 a month for broadband
13 services shall be payable monthly to:

14 (1) families whose annual household income is above
15 135% of the federal poverty level but no greater than 150%
16 of the federal poverty level; and

17 (2) families that include at least one adult person or
18 dependent child who qualifies for or receives benefits
19 under one or more of the following programs:

20 (A) the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program;

21 (B) the Supplemental Security Income program;

22 (C) veterans pension and survivor benefits
23 programs;

24 (D) the Federal Public Housing Assistance Program;

25 (E) the Medical Assistance Program under Article V

1 of the Illinois Public Aid Code;

2 (F) tribal programs for Native Americans; and

3 (G) the National School Lunch Program.

4 Credit amounts provided under this subsection (b) may be
5 adjusted according to family size as prescribed by the
6 Department.

7 (c) Families who receive a discount for broadband service
8 under the federal Lifeline program or any other State Internet
9 service subsidy program shall not be eligible to participate
10 in the Illinois Low Income Broadband Assistance Program under
11 this Act if they elect to remain enrolled in those programs.

12 Section 20. Eligibility. To be eligible for free broadband
13 service or a monthly credit for broadband service under this
14 Act an applicant must provide proof of eligibility in the form
15 and manner prescribed by the Department.

16 Section 25. Broadband service payments and credit.

17 (a) For each family enrolled in the Illinois Low Income
18 Broadband Assistance Program, the Department shall remit,
19 through the local administrative agencies, to the broadband
20 service provider that portion of the family's bill that is not
21 the responsibility of the family. For purposes of this
22 Section, payment is due on the date specified on the family's
23 bill. The Department, the Department of Revenue, and local
24 administrative agencies shall adopt processes that provide for

1 the timely payment required by this Section.

2 (b) Each family that receives a credit for broadband
3 service under subsection (b) of Section 15 is responsible for
4 all actual charges for broadband service in excess of the
5 credit provided under subsection (b) of Section 15. The
6 Department may terminate a program participant's eligibility
7 for the credit available under subsection (b) of Section 15
8 upon notification by the broadband service provider that the
9 participant's monthly service payment is more than 45 days
10 past due.

11 Section 30. Rules. The Department may adopt any rules
12 necessary to implement the provisions of this Act.