



## 101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

2019 and 2020

HB3492

by Rep. Aaron M. Ortiz

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Illinois Low Income Broadband Assistance Program. 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. Provides that the Department shall coordinate with Local Administrative Agencies (LAAs) to determine eligibility for the Program, provided that eligible income shall be no more than 135% of the federal poverty level. Provides that families whose annual household income is at or below 100% 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 100% of the federal poverty level but no greater than 135% 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. Contains provisions concerning continued eligibility requirements; bill payments requirements; and rulemaking authority.

LRB101 08643 JRG 53727 b

FISCAL NOTE ACT  
MAY APPLY

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning public aid.

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 (LAAs) to  
6 determine eligibility for the Program, provided that eligible  
7 income shall be no more than 135% of the federal poverty level.

8 Section 15. Eligible families.

9 (a) Families whose annual household income is at or below  
10 100% 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  
15 100% of the federal poverty level but no greater than 135%  
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 received benefits  
19 under one of the following programs:

20 (A) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

21 (B) Supplemental Security Income program.

22 (C) Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefits  
23 Programs.

24 (D) Federal Public Housing Assistance Program.

25 (E) Medical Assistance Program under Article V of

1 the Illinois Public Aid Code.

2 (F) Tribal Programs for Native Americans.

3 (G) 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 in  
10 the Illinois Low Income Broadband Assistance Program.

11 Section 20. Application requirements; continued  
12 eligibility. To be eligible for free broadband service or a  
13 monthly credit for broadband service under this Act an  
14 applicant must provide proof of eligibility in the form and  
15 manner prescribed by the Department. Families who participate  
16 in the Program must annually recertify their eligibility.  
17 Families who fail to recertify their eligibility shall be  
18 disenrolled from the Program.

19 Section 25. Broadband service payments and credit.

20 (a) For each family enrolled in the Illinois Low Income  
21 Broadband Assistance Program, the Department shall remit,  
22 through the LAAs, to the broadband service provider that  
23 portion of the family's bill that is not the responsibility of  
24 the family. For purposes of this Section, payment is due on the

1 date specified on the family's bill. The Department, the  
2 Department of Revenue, and LAAs shall adopt processes that  
3 provide for the timely payment required by this Section.

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

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