


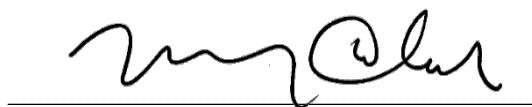
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2 Chairman Phil Mendelson

  
Councilmember Charles Allen

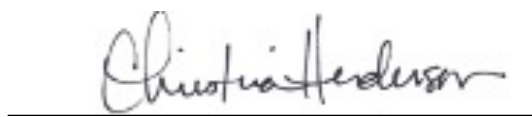
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5 Councilmember Elissa Silverman

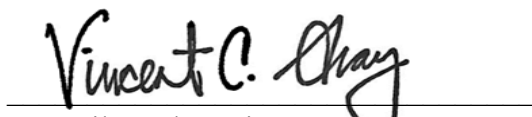
  
Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.

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9 Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau

  
Councilmember Mary M. Cheh

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13 Councilmember Brooke Pinto

  
Councilmember Christina Henderson

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17 Councilmember Vincent C. Gray

  
Councilmember Janeese Lewis George

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21 A BILL

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26 IN THE COUNCIL OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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30 To amend the Office of the Chief Technology Officer Establishment Act of 1998 to create a  
31 Digital Equity Division within the Office of the Chief Technology Officer, to require  
32 reporting on District residents’ access to high-speed internet service, and to require that all  
33 District residents have a high-speed internet connection.

34  
35 BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this  
36 act may be cited as “Internet Equity Amendment Act of 2021”.

37 Sec. 2. The Office of the Chief Technology Officer Establishment Act of 1998, effective  
38 March 26, 1999 (D.C. Law 12-175; D.C. Official Code § 1-1401, *et seq.*) is amended as follows:

39 (a) Section 1813 (D.C. Official Code § 1-1402) is amended by striking the sentence “In  
40 addition, the Office may work to ensure that reasonable, affordable access to high-speed Internet  
41 services is available to District residents and businesses.” and inserting the sentence “In addition,  
42 the Office shall work to ensure that all District businesses have reasonable, affordable access to  
43 high-speed internet services and shall ensure that all District residents have equitable access to  
44 high-speed internet.” in its place.

45 (b) Section 1814(11) (D.C. Official Code § 1-1403(11)) is amended to read as follows:

46 “(11) Develop and implement solutions designed to ensure that all District  
47 businesses have reasonable, affordable access to high-speed internet services and that all District  
48 residents have equitable access to high-speed internet; and”.

49 (c) Section 1816(a) (D.C. Official Code § 1-1405(a)) is amended as follows:

50 (1) The lead-in language is amended by striking the number 3 and inserting the  
51 number 4 in its place.

52 (2) Paragraph (2) is amended by striking the phrase “; and” and inserting a  
53 semicolon in its place.

54 (3) Paragraph (3) is amended by striking the phrase “systems.” and inserting the  
55 phrase “systems; and” in its place.

56 (4) A new paragraph (4) is added to read as follows:

57 “(4) Digital Equity, which shall be led by the Director of Digital Equity and shall  
58 ensure that all District residents have equitable access to high-speed internet, including by  
59 developing minimum standards for upload and download speed and coordinating with other  
60 District agencies to ensure equitable access to District government services offered through  
61 online platforms.”.

62 (d) A new section 1817 is added to read as follows:

63 “Section 1817. Digital Equity Division.

64 “(a) There is established within the Office a Digital Equity Division, which shall be led  
65 by a Director of Digital Equity.

66 “(b) Within 90 days of the effective date of Internet Equity Amendment Act of 2021, as  
67 introduced April 1, 2021 (B24-XXX), and every two years thereafter, the Office shall publish  
68 rules, pursuant to subchapter I of the District of Columbia Administrative Procedure Act,  
69 effective October 21, 1968 (82 Stat. 1204; D.C. Official Code § 2-501, *et seq.*), defining  
70 recommended minimum upload and download speeds necessary for District residents to work  
71 from home and engage in distance learning in grades pre-kindergarten through 12  
72 (“recommended connection speed”).

73 “(c) Within 90 days of the effective date of the Internet Equity Amendment Act of 2021,  
74 as introduced April 1, 2021 (B24-XXX), the Office shall deliver to the Council a report that:

75 “(1) Identifies any applications for services or benefits offered by a District  
76 agency in an online format, and information necessary to complete the application for services or  
77 benefits, that are not accessible in a similar manner on all of:

78 “(A) A desktop computer through each of the 4 most popular internet  
79 browsers;

80 “(B) A laptop computer through each of the 4 most popular internet  
81 browsers;

82 “(C) A tablet device; and

83 “(D) A smartphone;

84                   “(2) Lists the number and percent of households in the District, broken down by  
85 ward of residence, that:

86                   “(A) Do not have a connection to the internet at the recommended  
87 connection speed; and

88                   “(B) For households earning 50% of median family income or less, pay  
89 more than 0.5% of household income for a connection to the internet; and

90                   “(3) A plan to ensure that all District households identified pursuant to paragraph  
91 (2) of this subsection are connected to the internet at the recommended connection speed and at a  
92 cost that does not exceed 0.5% of household income.

93                   “(d) Within 180 days of the Internet Equity Amendment Act of 2021, as introduced April  
94 1, 2021 (B24-XXX), the Office shall ensure that all District households identified pursuant to  
95 subsection (c)(2) of this section are connected to the internet, at the recommended connection  
96 speed and at a cost that does not exceed 0.5% of household income, through:

97                   “(1) The DC-NET program, as that term is defined in section 1002(4) of the  
98 Technology Services Support Act of 2007, effective September 18, 2007 (D.C. Law 17-20; D.C.  
99 Official Code § 1-1431(3)); or

100                   “(2) A partnership with an internet service provider or providers, including, to the  
101 maximum extent feasible, an internet service provider or providers certified, or eligible to be  
102 certified, pursuant to section 2331 of the Small, Local, and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise  
103 Development and Assistance Act of 2005, effective October 20, 2005 (D.C. Law 16-33; D.C.  
104 Official Code § 2-218.31).

105           “(e)(1) Within one year of the effective date of the Internet Equity Amendment Act of  
106 2021, as introduced April 1, 2021 (B24-XXX) the Office shall deliver to the Council a Master  
107 Internet Plan that includes:

108                       “(A) A description of the timeline and actions the Office will take to  
109 ensure that all District residents are connected to the internet at a speed equal to or faster than the  
110 recommended connection speed;

111                       “(B) A comparison of high-speed internet adoption rates by census tract,  
112 including a description of whether internet connections are through home or mobile broadband;

113                       “(C) A description of the publicly and privately owned high-speed internet  
114 infrastructure in the District;

115                       “(D) A description of any agreements between the District government  
116 and other government agencies or private companies entered into for the purpose of expanding  
117 access to high-speed internet connections;

118                       “(E) A description of the public assets, infrastructure improvements, and  
119 range of technologies needed to ensure that all District residents are connected to the internet at a  
120 speed equal to or faster than the recommended connection speed;

121                       “(F) Plans for public engagement by District agencies and through  
122 partnerships with community organizations to overcome barriers to internet adoption;

123                       “(G) The economic impact of ensuring that all District residents have  
124 access to a high-speed internet connection; and

125                       “(H) A description of the viability of building and operating a service  
126 owned and operated by the District that would ensure every District household has a connection  
127 to the internet at a speed equal to or faster than the recommended connection speed, including:

128                                   “(i) The capital cost to the District of building the service,  
129 options to finance the capital cost, and estimated time to repay capital costs;  
130                                   “(ii) Estimated annual operating costs; and  
131                                   “(iii) An estimated timeline to connect all District residents to the  
132 internet at the recommended connection speed.

133                                   “(2) When developing the Master Internet Plan, the Office shall hold at least 3  
134 public meetings, including one in Ward 7 or Ward 8.

135                                   “(f) One year after delivering to the Council the report required pursuant to subsection (e)  
136 of this section, and yearly thereafter, the Office shall deliver to the Council a report listing:

137                                   “(1) Any applications for services or benefits, and information necessary to  
138 complete the application for services or benefits, offered in an online format by a District agency  
139 that are not accessible in a similar manner on all of:

140                                   “(A) A laptop computer through each of the 4 most popular internet  
141 browsers;

142                                   “(B) A desktop computer through each of the 4 most popular internet  
143 browsers;

144                                   “(C) A tablet device; and

145                                   “(D) A smartphone;

146                                   “(2) The number and percent of District households, broken down by ward of  
147 residence, that:

148                                   “(A) Do not have a connection to the internet at the speed identified in  
149 rules issued pursuant to subsection (b) of this section; and

150                           “(B) For households earning 50% of median family income or less, pay  
151 more than 0.5% of household income for a connection to the internet; and

152                           “(3) Actions taken in the prior year to implement recommendations in the Master  
153 Internet Plan.”.

154                   Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

155                   The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal  
156 impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975,  
157 approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

158                   Sec. 4. Effective date.

159                   This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the  
160 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as  
161 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December  
162 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of  
163 Columbia Register.