

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5834

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 10, 2014

Mr. FOSTER (for himself and Mr. CÁRDENAS) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

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 2014”.

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, subject to the
10 following limitations:

11 “(A) COST.—The cost included in a utility
12 allowance for a public housing dwelling unit
13 pursuant to this paragraph shall not—

14 “(i) exceed the lowest cost available in
15 the area of such housing for such high-
16 speed Internet service; and

17 “(ii) include any costs for cable or
18 satellite television service or for joint pack-
19 ages for Internet service together with
20 cable or satellite television service.

21 “(B) QUALIFIED FAMILIES.—Costs for
22 high-speed Internet service may be included in
23 a utility allowance only for a household that in-
24 curs such costs and includes children who qual-
25 ify for free and reduced price lunch pursuant to

1 section 9 of the Richard B. Russell National
2 School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758).

3 “(C) PROTECTION OF MINORS.—Costs for
4 high-speed Internet service may be included in
5 a utility allowance for a household only if the
6 Internet service provider, upon initial provision
7 of such service for a household, provides the
8 household with a specific technology capable of
9 blocking or filtering Internet access to visual
10 depictions described in section 254(h)(5)(B)(i)
11 of the Communications Act of 1937 (47 U.S.C.
12 254(h)(5)(B)(i)) that provides a level of protec-
13 tion against access by minors to such depictions
14 through the Internet that is at least as great as
15 the level of protection provided by a technology
16 protection measure (as such term is defined in
17 paragraph (7) of such section 254(h)) that
18 meets the requirements for certification under
19 such paragraph, as determined by the Sec-
20 retary.”.

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