

Department of Planning and Budget 2022 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1265

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. Patron: Subramanyam

3. Committee: General Laws and Technology

4. Title: Department of Housing and Community Development; broadband affordability plan.

5. Summary: Directs the Department of Housing and Community Development (the Department) to develop a plan, to be known as the Commonwealth Digital Affordability and Cost Effectiveness Plan (the Plan), to access federal funding under the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58). In order to achieve this goal, the Department shall apply for funding through a planning grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. The Plan shall include (i) an overview of options for affordable broadband connectivity in the Commonwealth; (ii) recommendations on how best to leverage federal grants addressing broadband affordability; (iii) best practices for establishing a broadband affordability program, taking into account existing federal funds and programs; and (iv) recommendations for public outreach, with consideration of the report submitted by the Department of Social Services as required in Item 359 L of Chapter 552 of the Acts of Assembly of 2021, Special Session I. The Department shall report the Plan to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 2022.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary.

8. Fiscal Implications: It is anticipated that any costs associated with this bill can be absorbed within current resources of the Department of Housing and Community Development.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Housing and Community Development

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: SB716 is the companion to this bill.