STATE OF NEW YORK

4017

2021-2022 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 1, 2021

Introduced by Sen. COMRIE -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Energy and Telecommunications

AN ACT to amend the public service law, in relation to requiring free internet service in households with students who live at or below the poverty level

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The article heading of article 11 of the public service law, as added by chapter 83 of the laws of 1995, is amended to read as follows:

PROVISIONS RELATING TO CABLE TELEVISION COMPANIES
AND INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS

§ 2. The public service law is amended by adding a new section 224-c to read as follows:

§ 224-c. Internet service to students. 1. For the purposes of this section the term "broadband service" shall mean a mass-market retail service that provides the capability to transmit data to and receive data from all or substantially all internet endpoints, including any capabilities that are incidental to and enable the operation of the communications service, but shall not include dial-up service.

2. Any company that provides broadband service shall provide free internet service to any household in which an elementary or secondary student resides where the income of such household is at or below the poverty level as established by local indicators.

3. All companies which provide broadband services in this state shall, for free with no cost or charge, identify and install, refurbish, and strengthen broadband system/network connections in all educational buildings including, but not limited to, schools, libraries, daycare centers, and community centers.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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§ 3. This act shall take effect on the one hundred twentieth day after it shall have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment, and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and completed on or before such effective date.