



Computer Technology Committee

Filed: 3/6/2008

09500HB5000ham002

LRB095 18464 RAS 47700 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 5000

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend House Bill 5000 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Children's Low-cost Laptop Act.

6 Section 5. Policy and purpose. The General Assembly finds
7 that the decreasing cost of computer technology makes it
8 possible today to equip more children than ever before with
9 21st century learning tools. The dramatic expansion of low-cost
10 computing options and the worldwide reliance on computer
11 technology for commerce, education, information, and social
12 interaction makes it ever more important to introduce computing
13 skills to students at an early age. Accordingly, the State
14 Board of Education shall establish a pilot project to provide a
15 low-cost laptop computer to each student, teacher, and relevant
16 administrator in a participating elementary school and

1 implement the use of educational software and computer skills
2 training in order to improve academic achievement and the
3 progress measures listed in subsection (a) of Section 20 in
4 this Act.

5 Section 10. Definitions. In this Act:

6 "Elementary school" means any school that maintains grades
7 one through 6.

8 "Low-cost laptop" means a portable personal computer
9 suitable for use among elementary school-aged children, under
10 \$400 in initial cost.

11 "State Board" means the State Board of Education.

12 Section 15. Pilot project; Elementary Students' Low-cost
13 Laptop Fund.

14 (a) The State Board shall establish a procedure and develop
15 criteria for the administration of a low-cost laptop pilot
16 project. The pilot project shall be for a period of at least 2
17 years. In administering the pilot project, the State Board
18 shall:

19 (1) select participating elementary schools;

20 (2) define the conditions for the distribution and use
21 of laptop computers and other technologies;

22 (3) coordinate a statewide grant program to purchase
23 and distribute laptop computers and other technologies;

24 (4) monitor local pilot project implementation; and

1 (5) conduct a final evaluation of the pilot project.

2 (b) The Elementary Students' Low-Cost Laptop Fund is
3 created as a special fund in the State treasury. All money in
4 this Fund shall be used, subject to appropriation, by the State
5 Board for the pilot project. To implement the pilot project,
6 the State Board may use any funds appropriated by the General
7 Assembly for the purposes of the pilot project, as well as any
8 gift, grant, or donation given for the pilot project. The State
9 Board may solicit and accept a gift, grant, or donation of any
10 kind from any source, including from a foundation, private
11 entity, governmental entity, or institution of higher
12 education, for the implementation of the pilot project. Funds
13 for the pilot project may not be used for the construction of a
14 building or other facility. The State Board shall use pilot
15 project funds for the following:

16 (1) low-cost laptop computers;

17 (2) replacements for any of the following low-cost
18 laptop components: batteries, power cords, or other
19 software and hardware; and

20 (3) the hiring of staff to administer professional
21 development and technical support for participating
22 teachers; for the purposes of this item (3), "professional
23 development" means the training of certified teaching
24 professionals in the integration of low-cost laptop
25 computers into the classroom curriculum.

26 The State Board may not allocate more than \$100 million for

1 the pilot project. The pilot project may be implemented only if
2 sufficient funds are available under this Section for that
3 purpose.

4 Section 20. Program participation requirements. A school
5 or district may apply to the State Board for the establishment
6 of a low-cost laptop pilot project grant for an entire school
7 or for a particular grade or group of classrooms in a school.

8 The State Board shall select up to 300 schools to
9 participate in the pilot project. At least one-third of the
10 selected schools shall be located in the City of Chicago; at
11 least one-third shall be located in the area that makes up the
12 counties of DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, Will, and that portion
13 of Cook County that is located outside of the City of Chicago;
14 and at least one-third shall be located in the remainder of the
15 State.

16 The State Board shall select the participating districts or
17 schools for the pilot project based on each district's or
18 school's need for the pilot project. In selecting participants,
19 the State Board shall consider each school's:

20 (1) free and reduced lunch eligible student
21 population;

22 (2) access to educational technology resources;

23 (3) rate of satisfactory performance on standardized
24 tests;

25 (4) readiness to incorporate technology into its

1 classrooms;

2 (5) availability of technology support staff and
3 professional development funds; and

4 (6) planned methods of measuring the progress of the
5 pilot project.

6 Section 25. Reporting.

7 (a) The school board of each school participating in the
8 pilot project shall send an annual progress report to the State
9 Board no later than August 1 of each year that the school is
10 participating in the pilot project. The report must include the
11 project's effect on:

12 (1) academic progress of students who are
13 participating in the pilot project, as measured by
14 performance on assessment instruments;

15 (2) student progress in schools or classrooms
16 participating in the pilot project as compared with student
17 progress in schools or classrooms not participating;

18 (3) student performance on assessment instruments
19 required by the State Board;

20 (4) school cost savings on textbook or other purchases
21 replaced by laptop abilities;

22 (5) attendance rates;

23 (6) teacher performance and retention;

24 (7) communications among students, teachers, parents,
25 and administrators;

1 (8) parental involvement in education;
2 (9) community involvement and support for the school;
3 and
4 (10) student proficiency in technologies or "computer
5 literacy".

6 (b) Each school or district participating in the grant
7 pilot project shall determine how the low-cost laptops are
8 assigned and retained.

9 (c) After the expiration of the pilot project, the State
10 Board shall review the project based on the annual reports the
11 State Board receives from the school board of participating
12 school districts.

13 Section 30. Repeal. This Act is repealed on August 31,
14 2011.

15 Section 90. The State Finance Act is amended by adding
16 Section 5.708 as follows:

17 (30 ILCS 105/5.708 new)

18 Sec. 5.708. The Elementary Students' Low-cost Laptop Fund.
19 This Section is repealed on August 31, 2011.

20 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
21 becoming law."