

HOUSE BILL 233

55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2021

INTRODUCED BY

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AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; REQUIRING THE PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO ASSIST SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN PROVIDING INTERNET ACCESS TO TEACHERS STATEWIDE; PROVIDING REQUIREMENTS TO RECEIVE FUNDS; PROVIDING EXCEPTIONS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. TEMPORARY PROVISION--PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT ASSISTANCE TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS--PAYMENT OF INTERNET COSTS--REQUIREMENTS TO RECEIVE FUNDS--EXCEPTIONS.--

A. The public education department shall assist school districts in providing internet access to school teachers statewide.

B. The public education department shall provide financial assistance monthly of up to:

(1) one hundred fifty dollars (\$150) per

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1 teacher, if the teacher is using a wi-fi hotspot that has not
2 been provided by the school district; or

3 (2) seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) per teacher
4 for regular internet services the teacher is using to provide
5 online lessons to students.

6 C. A school district shall provide the following
7 information to the public education department on a monthly
8 basis:

9 (1) the number of teachers in the school
10 district in need of assistance paying for internet access
11 costs; and

12 (2) receipts from each teacher for actual
13 expenses paid out of pocket for internet costs.

14 D. The funds provided for by this act shall only
15 apply to teachers who have not:

16 (1) been provided a wi-fi hotspot by the
17 school district; and

18 (2) returned to in-person teaching.

19 E. The provisions of this act shall only apply as
20 long as a school district is under coronavirus disease 2019
21 restrictions or is offering only remote learning.

22 F. The provisions of this act shall be effective
23 from July 1, 2021 until the termination of the state of public
24 health emergency related to the coronavirus disease 2019 as
25 declared by the governor.