

By: Representative Young

To: Education; Public Utilities

HOUSE BILL NO. 165

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE EACH SCHOOL DISTRICT TO DEVELOP AND
 2 IMPLEMENT A WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE TO SERVE ALL THE
 3 SCHOOLS AND CLASSROOMS IN THE DISTRICT; TO REQUIRE THE DISTRICTS
 4 TO DEVELOP A STRATEGIC PLAN TO PROVIDE FOR A TWO-YEAR PHASE-IN
 5 PERIOD FOR COMPLETE IMPLEMENTATION; TO REQUIRE DISTRICTS TO
 6 CONDUCT THOROUGH NEEDS ASSESSMENTS TO DETERMINE EXISTING ABILITY
 7 AND NETWORK CAPACITY AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE NETWORK
 8 TRAFFIC; TO REQUIRE SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO ISSUE AND PUBLICIZE
 9 REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS WITHIN FORTY-FIVE DAYS OF THE NEEDS
 10 ASSESSMENT'S CONCLUSION WHICH SPECIFIES THE CRITERIA TO BE
 11 INCLUDED IN PROPOSALS SUBMITTED FOR THE INSTALLATION AND SERVICE
 12 OF WIRELESS SYSTEMS; TO REQUIRE SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO SUBMIT THEIR
 13 STRATEGIC PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION TO THE STATE
 14 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, WHICH SHALL DETERMINE WHETHER THE
 15 WIRELESS CLASSROOM MODULE PROPOSED IS FUNCTIONAL ACCORDING TO THE
 16 GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE APPROVAL OR
 17 DISAPPROVAL OF PROPOSED WIRELESS TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE; TO
 18 PRESCRIBE THE CRITERIA AND ABILITY OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT'S WIRELESS
 19 CAPABILITY REQUIRED TO BE DEMONSTRATED TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF
 20 EDUCATION FOR ELIGIBILITY TO RECEIVE STATE FUNDS FOR WIRELESS
 21 TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE SERVING GRADES K-12; AND FOR RELATED
 22 PURPOSES.

23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

24 **SECTION 1.** (1) Each school district in the state shall
 25 develop and fully implement, by the 2022-2023 school year, a
 26 wireless technology infrastructure to serve all students enrolled
 27 and in attendance, as well as the instructional and administrative
 28 staff employed in each public school serving students in Grades



29 K-12. Each district shall develop a strategic plan to provide for
30 a two-year phase-in period, beginning with the 2021-2022 school
31 year for complete implementation, which reflects both the newly
32 identified needs of the district in totality and each independent
33 school facility operating therein and the progress made toward
34 plan goals and objectives. A thorough needs assessment shall be
35 conducted examining existing network capacity and the status of
36 all technical equipment, along with research on recommendations
37 for future network traffic.

38 (2) At the conclusion of the needs assessment of system
39 infrastructure, each school district, in order to solicit,
40 encourage and guide the development of a quality wireless school
41 and classroom environment, shall issue and publicize requests for
42 proposals (RFP) within forty-five (45) days of the needs
43 assessment's conclusion. The content and dissemination of the
44 request for proposals must be consistent with the purposes and
45 requirements of this act. The school district's request for
46 proposals must include the following:

47 (a) A clear statement of any preferences the school
48 district desires to incorporate as a feature of its technology
49 development to achieve optimal performance of its wired and
50 wireless network;

51 (b) A description of the infrastructure framework that
52 the district has determined necessary for the continued



53 administration, operation, oversight and evaluation of the
54 established network system;

55 (c) The criteria that will guide the district's
56 decision to approve or deny a submitted proposal for installation
57 and service; and

58 (d) A clear statement of appropriately detailed
59 questions, as well as guidelines, concerning the format and
60 content essential for submitted proposals to demonstrate the
61 capacities necessary to establish and operate a successful
62 wireless technology infrastructure and the district's wide area
63 network internal circuits, that supports wireless access points in
64 every classroom and multiple access points throughout common areas
65 on school campuses.

66 (3) Each school district shall submit its strategic plan of
67 development and implementation to the State Department of
68 Education, which shall determine whether the wireless classroom
69 module proposed is functional according to the guidelines
70 established by the department for the approval or disapproval of
71 proposed wireless technology infrastructures.

72 **SECTION 2.** In order to be eligible to receive state funds
73 for wireless technology infrastructure serving Grades K-12, school
74 districts shall first demonstrate to the State Department of
75 Education that the infrastructure meets or exceeds the following:

76 (a) **Functionality.** The wireless system shall ensure
77 coverage such that there is sufficient capacity to connect all



78 mobile computing devices to the wireless local area network (LAN)
79 from any instructional and administrative area in the school.
80 Students and educators will experience a transparent roaming
81 connectivity to the wireless LAN while moving through all rooms
82 and common areas in the school building. The wireless system
83 shall include access to all instructional areas as well as all
84 administrative areas including, at a minimum, academic classrooms
85 for all content areas, frequently used study areas, media centers,
86 assembly spaces, libraries and administrative offices. The
87 functionality shall meet requirements established under this
88 section.

89 (b) **Validation testing.** System validation testing
90 shall be conducted by school districts in conjunction with the
91 State Department of Education to confirm the wireless installation
92 meets or exceeds the functional requirements and performance and
93 reliability specifications established under this section. The
94 validation test shall provide the school district the opportunity
95 to test its wireless system and assure the State Department
96 of Education that the solution meets or exceeds established
97 performance and reliability standards established by the
98 department. The testing shall include connectivity, usability and
99 reliability during the first year of full implementation. The
100 department reserves the right to require additional testing as
101 deemed appropriate to ensure the ongoing functionality and
102 integrity of the wireless system. All installations shall include



103 a site work completion and satisfaction verification signed by the
104 responsible individuals designated by both the school district and
105 the department.

106 (c) **Content filtering and wireless security.** Internet
107 content filtering shall be included as part of any wireless
108 internet access made available to children, and shall include an
109 acceptable use policy to be agreed to by every individual who
110 accesses and uses the district's wireless technology
111 infrastructure. The filtering solution shall be configurable to
112 school district policies on acceptable, age appropriate internet
113 content. The content filtering shall include the ability:

114 (i) For each school to manage its own filtering
115 policies, including the decision to block specific categories of
116 content and to maintain its own whitelist and blacklist overrides;

117 (ii) To provide individual district utilization
118 and filtering reports, including the most frequently visited
119 websites, the most frequently visited categories, the most
120 frequently blocked websites, search terms most frequently used and
121 the top authenticated users;

122 (iii) To audit all changes to content filtering;

123 (iv) For all reporting and management of content
124 filtering to be available through any internet-connected browser
125 and efficiently perform all content filtering functions; and

126 (v) To protect against eavesdropping and
127 unauthorized access, which shall include encryption or other



128 techniques to provide assurances that the school district may turn
129 on or off as school district policy indicates.

130 For the purposes of this section, the term "school district"
131 also means a public charter school or its governing board. The
132 State Department of Education shall develop wireless
133 functionality, performance and reliability requirements.

134 **SECTION 3.** This act shall take effect and be in force from
135 and after July 1, 2021.

