

Senate Bill No. 1774

Passed the Senate August 30, 2000

Secretary of the Senate

Passed the Assembly August 28, 2000

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

This bill was received by the Governor this _____ day
of _____, 2000, at _____ o'clock ____M.

Private Secretary of the Governor

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CHAPTER _____

An act to add Section 10910.2 to the Education Code, relating to computer access, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1774, Bowen. Computer access.

(1) Existing law authorizes school districts to organize, promote, and conduct programs of community recreation as well as contribute to the attainment of general educational and recreational objectives for children and adults of the state. Existing law declares that it is in the interest of the people and of the state that there be a general diffusion of knowledge and intelligence through the establishment and operation of public libraries.

This bill would require the State Librarian to establish a grant program to encourage public libraries and public access computer technology centers, as defined, that have Internet access to extend the hours and days during which access is available to the public. The bill would require grant funds to cover the additional costs incurred by the libraries and public access computer technology centers, and to cover the cost of technical assistance at a level determined by the State Librarian. The bill would require the grant program to establish prescribed preferences. The bill would require that a grant made under the program not exceed \$100,000. The bill would require grantees to hire staff and recruit volunteers with appropriate levels of computer knowledge and expertise.

(2) The bill would appropriate \$1,343,000 from the General Fund, according to a specified schedule, for creation of Internet access centers throughout the state, for operational support of the "Little Hoover" Commission, and for the purchase of products and services for blind, print-limited, and learning disabled pupils.

Appropriation: yes.



The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the following:

(a) The ability to use a computer and the Internet are becoming critical skills that are necessary for full participation in modern society.

(b) The disparate access to computers and the Internet is known as the “digital divide” and is related to an individual’s income, ethnicity, and geographic location. The digital divide disadvantages people by denying them an equal opportunity to educate themselves, avail themselves of economic opportunities, participate in electronic commerce, and access information.

(c) A cost-effective way of helping to bridge the digital divide is to provide general access to the public through the extended use of libraries and other public access computer centers.

SEC. 2. Section 10910.2 is added to the Education Code, to read:

10910.2. (a) The State Librarian shall establish a grant program to encourage public libraries and public access computer technology centers that have Internet access to extend the hours and days during which access is available to the public. The grants shall cover the additional costs, excluding costs for the construction or lease of the facilities, incurred by a public access computer technology center or library, and shall cover the cost of technical assistance at a level determined by the State Librarian.

(b) The grant program established pursuant to this section shall establish preferences for the following:

(1) Public access computer technology centers, and libraries with substantial local and private sector support.

(2) Public access computer technology centers, and libraries located in areas with poor computer access, such as rural and low-income areas.



(c) Grantees shall hire staff and recruit volunteers with appropriate levels of computer knowledge and expertise.

(d) No grant awarded under the program shall exceed one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000).

(e) For the purposes of this section, “public access computer technology center” means a nonprofit community-based center located in a low-income neighborhood that provides access to technology and the Internet and technology skills training to underserved populations, including, but not limited to, youth. The purpose of the public access computer technology center is to provide opportunities for the general public to become trained and knowledgeable in the use of computers and to provide access to the Internet so that the general public may become familiar with the use of technology and the Internet and Internet resources.

SEC. 3. The sum of one million three hundred forty-three thousand dollars (\$1,343,000) is hereby appropriated from the General Fund to be allocated according to the following schedule:

(a) The sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) to the State Department of Education for the Clearing House for Specialized Media and Technology within the State Department of Education to purchase products and services for blind, print-limited, and learning disabled pupils.

(b) The sum of ninety-three thousand dollars (\$93,000) to the Milton Marks “Little Hoover” Commission on California State Government Organization and Economy for operational support.

(c) The sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) to the State Librarian to encourage public access computer technology centers that have Internet access to extend the hours and days that access is available to the public by providing grant funding to cover the additional costs incurred by the public access computer technology center and the cost of technical assistance at a level determined by the State Librarian.



Approved _____, 2000

Governor

