

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1034

To amend the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act to establish a digital network technology program, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 14, 2001

Mr. TOWNS (for himself and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To amend the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act to establish a digital network technology program, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “NTIA Digital Network  
5 Technology Program Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.**

2 The National Telecommunications and Information  
3 Administration Organization Act (47 U.S.C. 901 et seq.)  
4 is amended by adding at the end the following:

5 **“PART D—DIGITAL NETWORK TECHNOLOGY**  
6 **PROGRAM**

7 **“SEC. 171. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

8 “The Secretary shall establish, within the NTIA’s  
9 Technology Opportunities Program a digital network tech-  
10 nologies program to strengthen the capacity of eligible in-  
11 stitutions to provide instruction in digital network tech-  
12 nologies by providing grants to, or executing contracts or  
13 cooperative agreements with, those institutions to provide  
14 such instruction.

15 **“SEC. 172. ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED.**

16 “An eligible institution shall use a grant, contract,  
17 or cooperative agreement awarded under this part—

18 “(1) to acquire the equipment, instrumentation,  
19 networking capability, hardware and software, dig-  
20 ital network technology, and infrastructure necessary  
21 to teach students and teachers about technology in  
22 the classroom;

23 “(2) to develop and provide educational serv-  
24 ices, including faculty development, to prepare stu-  
25 dents or faculty seeking a degree or certificate that

1 is approved by the State, or a regional accrediting  
2 body recognized by the Secretary of Education;

3 “(3) to provide teacher education, library and  
4 media specialist training, and preschool and teacher  
5 aid certification to individuals who seek to acquire or  
6 enhance technology skills in order to use technology  
7 in the classroom or instructional process;

8 “(4) implement a joint project to provide edu-  
9 cation regarding technology in the classroom with a  
10 State or State education agency, local education  
11 agency, community-based organization, national non-  
12 profit organization, or business, including minority  
13 business or a business located in HUB zones, as de-  
14 fined by the Small Business Administration; or

15 “(5) provide leadership development to adminis-  
16 trators, board members, and faculty of eligible insti-  
17 tutions with institutional responsibility for tech-  
18 nology education.

19 **“SEC. 173. APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCEDURE.**

20 “(a) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a grant,  
21 contract, or cooperative agreement under this part, an eli-  
22 gible institution shall submit an application to the Sec-  
23 retary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by  
24 such information as the Secretary may reasonably require.  
25 The Secretary, in consultation with the panel described

1 in subsection (b), shall establish a procedure by which to  
2 accept such applications and publish an announcement of  
3 such procedure, including a statement regarding the avail-  
4 ability of funds, in the Federal Register.

5 “(b) PEER REVIEW PANEL.—The Secretary shall es-  
6 tablish a peer review panel to aid the Secretary in estab-  
7 lishing the application procedure described in subsection  
8 (a) and selecting applicants to receive grants, contracts,  
9 and cooperative agreements under section 171. In select-  
10 ing the members for such panel, the Secretary may consult  
11 with appropriate cabinet-level officials, representatives of  
12 non-Federal organizations, and representatives of eligible  
13 institutions to ensure that the membership of such panel  
14 reflects membership of the minority higher education com-  
15 munity, including Federal agency personnel and other in-  
16 dividuals who are knowledgeable about issues regarding  
17 minority education institutions.

18 **“SEC. 174. MATCHING REQUIREMENT.**

19 “The Secretary may not award a grant, contract, or  
20 cooperative agreement to an eligible institution under this  
21 part unless such institution agrees that, with respect to  
22 the costs to be incurred by the institution in carrying out  
23 the program for which the grant, contract, or cooperative  
24 agreement was awarded, such institution will make avail-  
25 able (directly or through donations from public or private

1 entities) non-Federal contributions in an amount equal to  
2  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the amount of the grant, contract, or cooperative  
3 agreement awarded by the Secretary, or \$500,000, which-  
4 ever is the lesser amount. The Secretary shall waive the  
5 matching requirement for any institution or consortium  
6 with no endowment, or an endowment that has a current  
7 dollar value lower than \$50,000,000.

8 **“SEC. 175. LIMITATION.**

9 “An eligible institution that receives a grant, con-  
10 tract, or cooperative agreement under this part that ex-  
11 ceeds \$2,500,000, shall not be eligible to receive another  
12 grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under this part  
13 until every other eligible institution has received a grant,  
14 contract, or cooperative agreement under this part.

15 **“SEC. 176. ANNUAL REPORT AND EVALUATION.**

16 “(a) ANNUAL REPORT REQUIRED FROM RECIPI-  
17 ENTS.—Each institution that receives a grant, contract,  
18 or cooperative agreement under this part shall provide an  
19 annual report to the Secretary on its use of the grant,  
20 contract, or cooperative agreement.

21 “(b) EVALUATION BY SECRETARY.—The Secretary,  
22 in consultation with the Secretary of Education, shall—

23 “(1) review the reports provided under sub-  
24 section (a) each year;

1           “(2) evaluate the program authorized by section  
2       171 on the basis of those reports; and

3           “(3) conduct a final evaluation at the end of  
4       the third year

5       “(c) CONTENTS OF EVALUATION.—The Secretary, in  
6       the evaluation, shall describe the activities undertaken by  
7       those institutions and shall assess the short-range and  
8       long-range impact of activities carried out under the  
9       grant, contract, or cooperative agreement on the students,  
10      faculty, and staff of the institutions

11      “(d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall  
12      submit a report to the Congress based on the final evalua-  
13      tion within 1 year after conducting the final evaluation.  
14      In the report, the Secretary shall include such rec-  
15      ommendations, including recommendations concerning the  
16      continuing need for Federal support of the program, as  
17      may be appropriate.”.

18      **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

19      Section 102(a) of the National Telecommunications  
20      and Information Administration Organization Act (47  
21      U.S.C. 901(a)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
22      lowing:

23           “(6) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION DEFINED.—The  
24      term ‘eligible institution’ means an institution that  
25      is—

1           “(A) a historically Black college or univer-  
2           sity that is a part B institution, as defined in  
3           section 322(2) of the Higher Education Act of  
4           1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061(2)), an institution de-  
5           scribed in section 326(e)(1)(A), (B), or (C) of  
6           that Act (20 U.S.C. 1063b(e)(1)(A), (B), or  
7           (C)), or a consortium of institutions described  
8           in this subparagraph;

9           “(B) a Hispanic-serving institution, as de-  
10          fined in section 502(a)(5) of the Higher Edu-  
11          cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1101a(a)(5));

12          “(C) a tribally controlled college or univer-  
13          sity, as defined in section 316(b)(3) of the  
14          Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
15          1059c(b)(3));

16          “(D) an Alaska Native-serving institution  
17          under section 317(b) of the Higher Education  
18          Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059d(b));

19          “(E) a Native Hawaiian-serving institution  
20          under section 317(b) of the Higher Education  
21          Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059d(b)); or

22          “(F) an institution determined by the Sec-  
23          retary, in consultation with the Secretary of  
24          Education, to have enrolled a substantial num-  
25          ber of minority, low-income students during the

1           previous academic year who received assistance  
2           under subpart I of part A of title IV of the  
3           Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
4           1070a et seq.) for that year.”.

5 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

6           There are authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-  
7           retary of Commerce not more than \$250,000,000 for fiscal  
8           year 2002, and such sums as may be necessary for fiscal  
9           years 2003 through 2007, to carry out part D of the Na-  
10          tional Telecommunications and Information Administra-  
11          tion Organization Act.

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