



Legislation Text

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Res. No. 368

Resolution calling on the New York State Legislature to pass, and the Governor to sign, S.5525/A.10690, requiring broadband providers to offer low-cost high-speed broadband to low-income New Yorkers.

By Council Members Menin, Gutiérrez, Louis, Restler, Brewer, Avilés, Joseph, Ayala, Abreu and Schulman

Whereas, Broadband, sometimes referred to as high-speed internet, is no longer a luxury that families can live without; and

Whereas, An internet connection is necessary for completing many basic tasks such as scheduling appointments and searching for jobs; and

Whereas, As COVID has shown us, the internet is necessary for many children to do their schoolwork; and

Whereas, The internet is necessary to access many government services such as unemployment compensation; and

Whereas, Broadband provides access to telehealth services, which can deliver health services to those who would otherwise lack access to medical services; and

Whereas, A high-speed internet connection can improve people's health by allowing them to better manage their symptoms and conditions from home, and without having to visit a doctor; and

Whereas, Having an internet connection allows people living alone to keep in contact with friends and family; and

Whereas, Increased access to broadband has been shown to increase civic engagement and increases the likelihood of voting; and

Whereas, A broadband connection is necessary to access the internet without extensive delays and

disruptions; and

Whereas, In 2021, the average price for broadband in New York was \$47 a month or \$563 a year; and

Whereas, Low-income families cannot always afford the cost of broadband internet; and

Whereas, Families with household incomes under \$20,000 are the least likely to have broadband access;

and

Whereas, Families should not have to choose between paying for food or rent and paying for internet service; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls on the New York State Legislature to pass, and the Governor to Sign, S.5525/A.10690, requiring broadband providers to offer low-cost high-speed broadband to low-income New Yorkers.

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10/06/22
EHC