

ICSEW BILL ALERT

HB 1723

Telecommunications Access



<https://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2021-22/Pdf/Bills/House%20Bills/1723-S.pdf?q=20220131080650>

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Why does this bill matter to you?

How does it apply to state employed women.

- Access to the internet is essential to participating in modern day society including, but not limited to, attending school and work, accessing health care, paying for basic services, connecting with family and friends, civic participation, and economic survival.
- For too many people in both rural and urban areas, the cost of being online is unaffordable.
- Therefore, the legislature intends to broaden access to the internet, the appropriate devices, and the skills to operate online safely and effectively so that all people in Washington can fully participate in our society, democracy, and economy.
- The Washington broadband assistance program is established within the department to provide low-income persons with reduced rates for eligible voice and broadband services.
- The anchor institution digital equity program is established. The office shall develop, implement, and administer the program for the purpose of providing discounted rates ... to qualifying anchor institutions. ["Anchor institution" means a public school, a public housing authority, a library, a medical or health care provider, a community college or other institution of higher education, a state library agency, courts, early learning centers, homelessness shelters, group homes, community centers, elder care facilities...]

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As state employees, we cannot use state time or resources to lobby for or against legislative proposals (RCW [42.52.160](#) and [42.52.180](#)). On your own time and using your own resources, let your voice be heard by:

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