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KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION KENTUCKY YOUTH ASSEMBLY Premiere Bill

Red | Bill # P21

Referred to Committee: Senate 2

Authors: C. Phillip Brock, Hunter Gray, Bryce Helton, Rayeanna Kimberlin	Action o	n the Bill
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An act to authorize incentives for companies providing fast, reliable Internet to rural Kentucky counties.

Be it enacted by the Youth Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky

Section 1: It is well documented that 21st Century learners must have the correct tools to compete with their counterparts in other parts of the country and world. Unreliable Internet wastes technology monies already invested in hardware and web-based programs that cannot be effectively used. This waste negatively affects 21st Century teaching and student learning, undermines innovative opportunities to network and hinders the ability to access resources that are normally out of reach. Internet provider monopolies occur within certain counties and are causing communities to be under-served with no alternatives. This then becomes a justice issue, as students in rural schools, especially in Eastern Kentucky, are not given the same opportunities to learn, use and apply 21st Century skills.

Section 2: State tax incentives shall be awarded by the KY Department of Revenue/KY Cabinet for Economic Development to companies that provide reliable Internet to under-represented rural Kentucky counties by December 31, 2016. Incentives are available for up to 20 years and include: 1) credit of up to 100% of tax paid on corporate income and 2) sales and use tax refunds of up to 100 percent of tax paid on property to construct, retrofit or upgrade a facility. To ensure and establish reliability, an eligible company may not apply for the tax incentive until six months after required service is provided.

Section 3: The KY Office of Technology shall establish and maintain the minimum requirements necessary for incentive eligibility. These minimum requirements for eligibility shall be reviewed and/or updated every five years and approved by the KY General Assembly. A list of underrepresented counties will be posted and maintained by the KY Office of Technology. Counties or communities that feel they are being underserved will apply to the Office of Technology to be included on this list. Monitoring and enforcement of minimum requirements for incentive shall be the responsibility of the KY Office of Technology. The KY Office of Technology shall communicate with the KY Department of Revenue/KY Cabinet for Economic Development to make sure the incentives are awarded or retracted accordingly.

Section 4: This bill will go into effect upon its passage.