

Department of Planning and Budget

2022 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: SB716

House of Origin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron: Petersen

3. Committee: General Laws and Technology

4. Title: Department of Housing and Community Development; broadband affordability plan.

5. Summary: Directs the Department of Housing and Community Development to develop the Commonwealth Digital Affordability and Cost-Effectiveness to address broadband affordability and equity. The bill requires that the Plan include (i) an overview of where in the Commonwealth broadband and other digital connectivity is unaffordable; (ii) recommendations on how best to leverage federal grants addressing broadband affordability to best execute the Plan; (iii) best practices for establishing a grant program or its equivalent to address digital affordability, taking into account existing federal funds and programs; (iv) a strategy to expand the affordability of broadband by retrofitting all affordable housing projects with broadband installations and other necessary infrastructure improvements; and (v) recommendations, including recommendations for a public outreach plan, on how to take advantage of the \$14 billion Affordability Connectivity Program of the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to support a permanent \$30-a-month broadband subsidy for low-income households, National Telecommunications and Information Administration programs, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Reconnect program. The bill requires the Department to report the Plan to the Governor and the General Assembly by December 1, 2022.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Preliminary.

8. Fiscal Implications: It is anticipated that any costs associated with this bill can be absorbed within current resources of the Department of Housing and Community Development.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Housing and Community Development

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: HB1265 is the companion to this bill.