

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6373

To establish the Digital Literacy and Equity Commission, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 12, 2022

Mrs. LAWRENCE (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. COSTA, and Ms. TITUS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To establish the Digital Literacy and Equity Commission,  
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. ESTABLISHMENT.**

4       There is established a commission to be known as the  
5       “Digital Literacy and Equity Commission” (in this Act  
6       referred to as the “Commission”).

7       **SEC. 2. DUTIES.**

8       The Commission shall conduct a study on digital lit-  
9       eracy and equity, including—

1           (1) the state of digital literacy and information  
2 literacy in the United States, including—

3           (A) Federal, State, and local programs  
4 aimed at increasing digital literacy and infor-  
5 mation literacy; and

6           (B) an analysis of digital literacy and in-  
7 formation literacy in low-income areas and dis-  
8 advantaged areas;

9           (2) programs in other countries with the goal of  
10 increasing digital literacy and information literacy;  
11 and

12           (3) the identification of strategies and best  
13 practices to maintain increased levels of digital lit-  
14 eracy and information literacy in the United States.

15 **SEC. 3. MEMBERSHIP.**

16           (a) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Commission  
17 shall be composed of—

18           (1) the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for  
19 Communications and Information or the delegate of  
20 the Assistant Secretary;

21           (2) the Chairperson of the Federal Communica-  
22 tions Commission or the delegate of the Chairperson  
23 of the Federal Communications Commission;

1           (3) the Chief of the Wireless Telecommuni-  
2           cations Bureau of the Federal Communications  
3           Commission or the delegate of the Chief;

4           (4) the Director of the Institute of Museum and  
5           Library Services or the delegate of the Director;

6           (5) the Secretary of Education or the delegate  
7           of the Secretary;

8           (6) the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-  
9           ices or the delegate of the Secretary;

10          (7) the Secretary of Housing and Urban Devel-  
11          opment or the delegate of the Secretary;

12          (8) 3 members appointed by the Chairperson of  
13          the Commission—

14                (A) with knowledge or expertise in digital  
15                literacy and equity;

16                (B) from the public or private sector, in-  
17                cluding—

18                      (i) Federal, State, or local employees;

19                      (ii) former Members of Congress; or

20                      (iii) employees of academic institu-  
21                      tions and non-governmental organizations;

22                      and

23                      (C) who represent diverse economic, pro-  
24                      fessional, and cultural backgrounds; and

1           (9) not more than 5 members appointed by the  
2       President, from among the heads of Federal agen-  
3       cies, or delegates of the heads of Federal agencies,  
4       who the President determines would be beneficial to  
5       the Commission.

6       (b) CHAIRPERSON; VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The Sec-  
7       retary of Education or the delegate of the Secretary shall  
8       serve as the Chairperson of the Commission, and the  
9       Chairperson of the Federal Communications Commission  
10      or the delegate of the Chairperson of the Federal Commu-  
11      nications Commission shall serve as the Vice Chairperson  
12      of the Commission.

13      (c) MEETINGS.—

14           (1) FIRST MEETING.—Not later than 90 days  
15      after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
16      Chairperson of the Commission shall hold a meeting  
17      of the Commission.

18           (2) SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS.—The Commission  
19      shall meet not less than once every 4 months at a  
20      time and place determined by the Chairperson of the  
21      Commission, and may hold such other meetings as  
22      the Chairperson of the Commission determines are  
23      necessary to carry out this Act.

24           (3) PUBLIC ACCESS.—All meetings of the Com-  
25      mission shall be open to the public.

1 (d) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the  
2 Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser num-  
3 ber may hold hearings.

4 **SEC. 4. POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.**

5 (a) HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.—The Commission  
6 may, for the purpose of carrying out this Act, hold such  
7 hearings, sit and act at such times and places, take such  
8 testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission  
9 considers appropriate.

10 (b) POWERS OF MEMBERS AND AGENTS.—Any mem-  
11 ber or agent of the Commission may, if authorized by the  
12 Commission, take any action that the Commission is au-  
13 thorized to take by this section.

14 **SEC. 5. REPORT.**

15 Within 2 years after the appointment of the members  
16 of the Commission, the Chairperson of the Commission  
17 shall submit to the Congress a report that contains—

18 (1) the results of the study required by section  
19 2;

20 (2) recommendations on how to improve and  
21 maintain the digital literacy and information literacy  
22 of individuals in the United States and education in  
23 the United States relating to digital literacy and in-  
24 formation literacy through early education and com-  
25 munity outreach, with a particular focus on increas-

1       ing equity in the availability of digital literacy and  
2       information literacy resources;

3           (3) recommendations for the Federal Govern-  
4       ment to create and implement a method to measure  
5       digital literacy in the United States, in order to aid  
6       future efforts to address digital literacy; and

7           (4) a plan to increase inter-agency coordination  
8       to improve digital literacy services provided by the  
9       Federal Government.

10 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

11       In this Act:

12           (1) **DIGITAL LITERACY.**—The term “digital lit-  
13       eracy” means the ability to use information and  
14       communication technologies to find, evaluate, create,  
15       and communicate information, requiring both cog-  
16       nitive and technical skills.

17           (2) **INFORMATION LITERACY.**—The term “infor-  
18       mation literacy” means—

19                (A) the ability to recognize when informa-  
20       tion is needed; and

21                (B) the ability to locate, evaluate, and use  
22       needed information effectively.

23           (3) **LOW-INCOME.**—The term “low-income” has  
24       the meaning given that term in section 1303 of the

1       Housing and Community Development Act of 1992  
2       (12 U.S.C. 4502).

3           (4) DISADVANTAGED AREA.—The term “dis-  
4       advantaged area” means a community with an an-  
5       nual median household income that is less than 80  
6       percent of the statewide annual median household  
7       income, determined on the basis of the latest avail-  
8       able decennial census of the United States.

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