

Legislative Analysis



DIGITAL LITERACY AND CYBERSAFETY INFORMATION

Phone: (517) 373-8080
<http://www.house.mi.gov/hfa>

House Bill 4414 (H-1) as reported from committee

Sponsor: Rep. Helena Scott

Committee: Energy, Communications, and Technology

Complete to 10-19-23

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

SUMMARY:

House Bill 4414 would amend the Management and Budget Act to require the Department of Technology, Management, and Budget (DTMB), in consultation with the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO), to create materials, resources, model curricula, and lesson plans concerning digital literacy and cybersafety. In addition, LEO would have to provide those materials, resources, model curricula, and lesson plans for free on its website.

Proposed MCL 18.1290

BRIEF DISCUSSION:

According to committee testimony, the COVID-19 pandemic provided clear examples not only of our increasing reliance on the internet, and the consequent importance of internet access, but also the struggles some have in understanding and navigating the digital world. The movement online of all kinds of social, commercial, and governmental functions and services has exposed a gap in digital savvy that leaves some of us in danger of being left behind. Even the digitally literate can be vulnerable to scams or malware they have never heard of before. It's in the nature of scams to exploit social novelty. The bill would require the creation of an internet site with free information and resources on digital literacy and cybersafety. Those sorts of materials are already available from several state agencies. Supporters of the bill hope that having them all in one place will allow more people to more easily become more knowledgeable about, and more comfortable in, and thus more safe in, the world we are more and more living in.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Department of Technology, Management, and Budget may incur additional costs related to requiring one or more additional staff members and other office resources to create materials and curricula on an ongoing basis. It is not yet known how many additional staff members would be needed to implement the bill. The average annual state classified employee full-time equivalent salary cost is approximately \$115,000. The bill would have no fiscal impact on local units of government.

POSITIONS:

A representative of the Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity testified in support of the bill. (5-10-23)

The following entities indicated support for the bill:

- Department of Technology, Management, and Budget (5-10-23)
- Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) (5-17-23)

Legislative Analyst: Rick Yuille
Fiscal Analyst: Michael Cnossen

■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.