A bill to be entitled
An act relating to student access to internet
connections and technology; creating s. 1000.09, F.S.;
establishing the Digital Inclusion Technology
Development Initiative; providing the purpose and goal
of the initiative; providing for funding; requiring
the initiative to submit an annual report by a
specified date to the Governor, the Legislature, and
the Commissioner of Education; establishing the
Initiative Educational Technology Advisory Council;
providing for the meetings, membership, terms of
office, and compensation of the council; providing for
expiration of the initiative; providing
appropriations; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 1000.09, Florida Statutes, is created
to read:

1000.09  Digital Inclusion Technology Development
Initiative; Initiative Educational Technology Advisory Council.—

(1) The Digital Inclusion Technology Development
Initiative is established as a partnership between the
Department of Education and an organization of its choosing.

(a) The purpose of the initiative is to develop
technologies and various approaches to bridge the divide of Internet inequality throughout the state.

(b) The goal of the initiative is to develop and implement technologies, strategies, and programs to ensure the state's students, regardless of economic status or geographic location, have access to quality internet connections and the technologies needed to succeed in today's educational environment.

(c) Funds specifically appropriated by the Legislature for the initiative shall be awarded by the department to the selected entity to achieve the goals of the initiative.

1. The organization may, with the concurrence of the department, use a portion of the awarded funds to facilitate additional engagement with other pertinent organizations in the state and around the world to pursue the purpose of the initiative.

2. The organization may not use more than 5 percent of its awarded funds for direct annual initiative administration coordination costs.

3. The initiative shall leverage state-appropriated funds with additional funds from private and federal sources.

(d) Beginning January 15, 2024, and each January 15 thereafter until its expiration, the initiative shall submit a report that contains an overview of its accomplishments to date and priorities for subsequent years to the Governor, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of
(2) There is established within the initiative the Initiative Educational Technology Advisory Council, an advisory council as defined in s. 20.03(7), which includes education and technology development representatives from governmental entities, private organizations, and public or private research institutions. The council shall meet at least twice annually.

(a) The council shall be chaired by the governing officer of the entity selected by the department for the initiative and shall consist of the following:

1. One member from a private technology company, appointed by the Governor.
2. One member from a public or private university in the state, appointed by the President of the Senate.
3. One member from a public or private university in the state, appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.
4. Two members from the Department of Education who have expertise in educational technologies, appointed by the commissioner.

(b) Council members shall serve staggered 2-year terms and may be reappointed.

(c) Council members shall serve without compensation, and each organization represented shall cover all expenses of its respective representative.

(3) This section expires June 30, 2027.
Section 2. Beginning in the 2022-2023 fiscal year, and for each fiscal year thereafter through the 2026-2027 fiscal year, there is appropriated the sum of $3 million from the General Revenue Fund to the Department of Education for the purpose of implementing s. 1000.09, Florida Statutes.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2022.