



## H.R. 752 – FEDERAL ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT DONATION ACT

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### FLOOR SITUATION

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H.R. 752 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative G.K. Butterfield (D-NC) on January 31, 2007. The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform approved the bill, as amended, on May 8, 2008.

H.R. 752 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on May 19, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

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H.R. 752 codifies an Executive Order 12999 issued by President Clinton in 1996, which established the Computers for Learning Program. The General Services Administration (GSA) is to prescribe the rules and procedures to determine the distribution of this equipment.

The legislation requires federal agencies to identify and inventory all electronic equipment that the agency has determined to be in excess to its needs and report these numbers to the GSA. Once these numbers are reported, the GSA makes all arrangements for the transferring of the equipment at the lowest cost to the recipient and the agencies may then directly transfer the equipment to the qualifying educational institution. Agencies must have all equipment not in acceptable condition for classroom use to be refurbished so that it may be distributed.

Additionally, the legislation would expand the scope of the Computers for Learning Program to require schools located in poor rural towns and counties, in addition to economically struggling communities to be given preferential treatment when excess federal computers and equipment are distributed.

The bill requires the Comptroller General to report to Congress within 18 months of this legislation's enactment. The report must include an inventory of electronic equipment that federal agencies have identified as useful for the purpose of the program, as well as the number of these items that have been transferred to qualifying educational recipients.

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### BACKGROUND

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Executive Order 12999 was signed by President Clinton on April 17, 1996. The Executive Order allowed the GSA to create and administer the Computers for Learning Program. This program promotes the donation of excess federal computers and electronic equipment to schools and educationally related nonprofit organizations through out the U.S.

A 1997 report by the RAND Corporation found that the success of the Computers for Learning program had mixed results. The report found that much of the electronic equipment was in need of refurbishing. The report also found that the equipment distribution was unevenly spread across the U.S., with rural communities reporting difficulty obtaining equipment through the program. The Computers for Learning Program did not originally include a provision giving preference to small towns and communities.

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### COST

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The Congressional Budget Office "estimates that implementing this legislation would not significantly increase costs to GSA or any other federal agencies. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues."

[Full CBO cost estimate for H.R. 752](#)



# LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

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