



HB 2384 / SB 1557: Universal Broadband Assistance Act

The Universal Broadband Assistance Act would **expand an existing, successful landline telephone low-income assistance program to include assistance for broadband Internet service**. The act would also make it easier for consumers to apply to the program.

At its peak, the landline program helped approximately **50,000 people a year** afford landline phone installation charges.

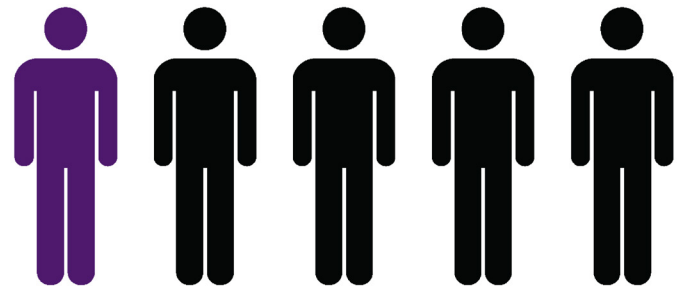
House Bill 2384/Senate Bill 1557 would also **expand consumers' ability to support the program** by including an optional check box for donations on all bills that may include broadband service (wireless, cable, VoIP, etc.).

Because of this expansion, the bill would make updates to the program's governing board. The board is currently made up of equal parts industry representatives and consumer advocates. The bill would **increase the size of the board** to include representatives from broadband companies. For each additional industry representation added to the board, a consumer advocate would be added.

To ease the program registration process, the Act would also **allow for zip code verification** of participant eligibility.

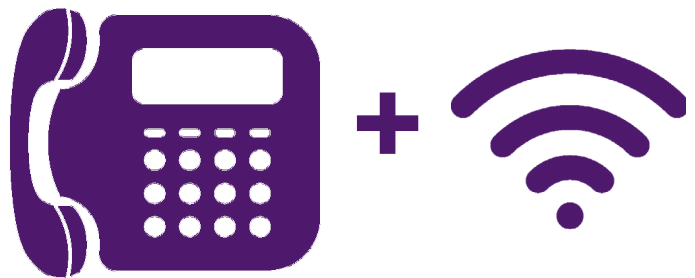
HB 2384/SB 1557 will help **make Illinois a leader in Internet and broadband affordability**. Federal money can now be used to help pay broadband bills as a result of the most recent COVID-19 federal relief bill, but the money won't last forever. This bill would allow the assistance to continue.

Please **vote yes on HB 2384/SB 1557** and help people in your community access the Internet.



1 in 5

children in Illinois do not have high-speed Internet access at home. **House Bill 2384/Senate Bill 1557** could help close the “homework gap,” the focus of much current concern about the digital divide.



At its peak, the landline program helped approximately **50,000 people a year** afford landline phone installation charges. Expanding the program could help thousands more afford costly Internet service.