

March 30, 2022

	Yes	No
DOR Administrative Costs/Savings	X	

 Department of Revenue  
 Analysis of S. F. 2977 (Rest) as Proposed to be Amended (SCS2977A-1)

	<b>Fund Impact</b>			
	<u>F.Y. 2022</u>	<u>F.Y. 2023</u>	<u>F.Y. 2024</u>	<u>F.Y. 2025</u>
	(000's)			
K-12 Education Credit				
Increased Phase-Out	\$0	(\$13,300)	(\$14,000)	(\$14,200)
Computer & Internet Expense	\$0	(\$16,500)	(\$16,700)	(\$16,900)
K-12 Education Subtraction				
Shift to K-12 Credit	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$1,100</u>	<u>\$1,200</u>	<u>\$1,200</u>
General Fund Total	\$0	(\$28,700)	(\$29,500)	(\$29,900)

Effective beginning tax year 2022.

### **EXPLANATION OF THE BILL**

**Current Law:** A taxpayer is allowed a refundable income tax credit equal to 75% of eligible education expenses for a qualifying child in kindergarten through 12th grade. The maximum credit is \$1,000 for each child. Eligible expenses include fees for instruction outside the regular school day or school year, expenses for textbooks or instructional materials, and transportation costs paid to others. Tuition is not an eligible expense. A maximum of \$200 per family for certain computer hardware and software is allowed.

The maximum credit is phased out beginning at household income of \$33,500. For taxpayers with one child, the maximum credit is reduced by one dollar for every four dollars of household income over \$33,500. For taxpayers with two or more children, the maximum credit is reduced by two dollars for every four dollars of household income over \$33,500. The phase-out range is increased by \$2,000 for each additional child. The income thresholds are not indexed for inflation. Household income includes income from all sources, both taxable and nontaxable.

**Proposed Law:** The bill changes the definition of K12 household income to federal adjusted gross income (FAGI) and increases the phase-out threshold from \$33,500 to \$70,000. As proposed to be amended, for fiscal year filers FAGI would mean FAGI reflected in the fiscal year ending in the next calendar year, not including any net operating loss or capital loss carry-back or carry-forward. The threshold would be adjusted annually for inflation beginning in tax year 2023.

The bill also expands the definition of qualified expenses to include monthly internet service charges and increases the maximum computer expenses from \$200 to \$300.

## REVENUE ANALYSIS DETAIL

- The estimate is based on a sample of tax year 2019 individual income tax returns compiled by the Minnesota Department of Revenue.
- About 38,600 returns would be newly eligible for the credit due to the higher phase-out threshold. Returns in the current phase-out range would qualify for a higher credit.
- Newly eligible taxpayers are assumed to be currently claiming the education expense subtraction. The subtraction was reduced by the amount of expenses used to claim the credit.
- A marginal rate of 6.5% was assumed to estimate the impact of the forgone subtractions.
- About 12,400 returns claimed the credit for computer expenses in 2019. Of those, 8,500 claimed the maximum of \$200. The remainder claimed an average of \$115. It is assumed that with the addition of internet expenses, they would claim the maximum of \$300.
- About 16,300 returns claimed the credit but did not report computer expenses. About 57% of those returns are assumed to have internet service expenses, based on a survey by the Pew Research Center on home broadband access by income. They are expected to claim the maximum computer expenses of \$300.
- An additional 23,600 returns under the current phase-out thresholds are expected to be eligible for the credit due to internet service expenses. Their expenses are assumed to be \$300.
- About 87% of those who are eligible due to the expanded phase-out range are expected to have eligible internet expenses. Their expenses are assumed to be \$300.
- Because the income phase-out threshold would be indexed for inflation, the credit is assumed to grow about 1% annually.
- The tax year 2022 impact was allocated to fiscal year 2024. For other years, tax year impacts were allocated to the following fiscal year.

**Number of Taxpayers:** About 38,600 returns will benefit from the increased phase-out threshold, and 78,300 returns are expected to claim the credit for internet service expenses.

Minnesota Department of Revenue  
Tax Research Division  
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