



General Assembly

**Proposed Substitute  
Bill No. 570**

February Session, 2008

LCO No. 3299

**AN ACT CONCERNING TELECOMMUTING AND HIGH SPEED  
BROADBAND ACCESS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 12-81 of the 2008 supplement to the general  
2 statutes is amended by adding subdivision (77) as follows (*Effective*  
3 *October 1, 2008*):

4 (NEW) (77) Effective for assessment years commencing on or after  
5 October 1, 2010, new computer servers, fiber optic wire and equipment  
6 or newly acquired computer servers, fiber optic wire and equipment,  
7 provided (A) such equipment is used by a telecommunications  
8 company in connection with updating existing or establishing new  
9 broadband or wireless Internet service infrastructure, and (B) functions  
10 at a speed or transfer rate equal to or exceeding five megabytes per  
11 second. The exemption available pursuant to this subdivision is only  
12 applicable to the same equipment for two consecutive assessment  
13 years.

14 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2008, and applicable to income years*  
15 *commencing on or after January 1, 2008*) (a) For purposes of this section,  
16 "full-time employee" means an employee required to work at least  
17 thirty-five hours per week, and does not include a temporary or  
18 seasonal employee.

19 (b) There shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by  
20 chapter 208 of the general statutes on any corporation that allows its  
21 full-time employees to participate in a telecommuting or work-at-  
22 home program in an amount equal to two thousand dollars for each  
23 calendar year such program is in place.

24 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2008*) (a) The Department of  
25 Economic and Community Development, in consultation with the  
26 Department of Public Utility Control and the Broadband Internet  
27 Coordinating Council, established pursuant to section 4d-100 of the  
28 2008 supplement to the general statutes, shall, within available  
29 appropriations, enlist a public-private partnership to develop a  
30 comprehensive, state-wide high speed Internet deployment strategy  
31 and adoption initiative to (1) ensure that all state residents and  
32 businesses unserved by high speed Internet service, as defined in the  
33 Code of Federal Regulations as of January 1, 2008, have access to  
34 affordable and reliable high speed Internet service; (2) achieve  
35 improved technology literacy, increased computer ownership and  
36 home high speed Internet use among state residents and businesses;  
37 (3) establish and empower local grassroots technology teams to plan  
38 for improved technology use across multiple community sectors; and  
39 (4) establish and sustain an environment ripe for state-wide high speed  
40 Internet access and technology investment.

41 (b) To accomplish the objectives set forth in sections 3 to 6, inclusive,  
42 of this act, the Department of Economic and Community  
43 Development, in consultation with the Department of Public Utility  
44 Control and the Broadband Internet Coordinating Council, established  
45 pursuant to section 4d-100 of the 2008 supplement to the general

46 statutes, shall contract with a nonprofit organization with an  
47 established competency in working with public and private sectors to  
48 accomplish wide-scale deployment and adoption of  
49 telecommunications and information technology.

50 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2008*) The public-private  
51 partnership established pursuant to section 3 of this act shall include  
52 input and cooperation among state agencies and bodies representing  
53 economic development, local community development, technology  
54 planning, education, healthcare and other relevant entities. The private  
55 entities within the partnership shall include providers of broadband  
56 service, telecommunications providers, technology companies,  
57 community-based organizations and relevant private sector entities to  
58 achieve the purposes set forth in said section 3. Private entities  
59 submitting data in connection with efforts to develop the high speed  
60 Internet deployment strategy pursuant to said section 3 shall only  
61 provide such data to the extent and in the format the data is  
62 maintained in the normal course of business. Any information  
63 designated by the providing entity as confidential or proprietary shall  
64 be treated as such and governed by an appropriate nondisclosure  
65 agreement. The data submitted by providing entities pursuant to this  
66 section shall not be subject to disclosure under chapter 14 of the  
67 general statutes.

68 Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2008*) The high speed Internet  
69 service deployment strategy and adoption initiative established  
70 pursuant to section 3 of this act shall include, but not be limited to:

71 (1) Creating a geographic state-wide inventory of high speed  
72 Internet service and other relevant telecommunications and  
73 information technology services, consistent with any federal data  
74 reporting requirements. The inventory shall (A) identify geographic  
75 gaps in high speed Internet service through geographic information  
76 system mapping of service availability and geographic information  
77 system analysis at the census block level; (B) provide a baseline

78 assessment of state-wide high speed Internet deployment in terms of  
79 percentage of households with high speed Internet availability; and (C)  
80 provide updates to these data every six months;

81 (2) Tracking state-wide residential and business adoption of high  
82 speed Internet, computers and related information technology through  
83 data collected directly from end-users through telephone surveys or  
84 similar methods, identifying barriers to adoption and measuring  
85 progress on these data annually;

86 (3) Building and facilitating in each county or designated region a  
87 local technology planning team with members representing a cross  
88 section of the community, including, but not limited to, representatives  
89 of business, kindergarten through grade twelve education, health care,  
90 libraries, higher education, community-based organizations, local  
91 government, tourism, parks and recreation and agriculture. Each team  
92 shall benchmark technology use across relevant community sectors, set  
93 goals for improved technology use within each sector and develop a  
94 business plan to achieve its goals, with specific recommendations for  
95 online application development and demand creation;

96 (4) Working collaboratively with high speed Internet service  
97 providers and technology companies across the state to encourage  
98 deployment and use, in underserved areas, through the use of local  
99 demand aggregation, mapping analysis and the creation of market  
100 intelligence to improve the business case for providers to deploy; and

101 (5) Establishing programs to improve computer ownership and  
102 Internet access for disenfranchised populations across the state.

103 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2008*) On or before March 1, 2009,  
104 the Department of Economic and Community Development shall  
105 report recommendations developed by the public-private partnership  
106 established pursuant to section 3 of this act to the joint standing  
107 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters  
108 relating to energy and technology and commerce.

109      Sec. 7. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2008*) Nothing in sections 3 to 6,  
110 inclusive, of this act shall be construed as giving the Department of  
111 Community and Economic Development or other entities any  
112 additional authority, regulatory or otherwise, over providers of  
113 telecommunications and information technology.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	12-81
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2008, and applicable to income years commencing on or after January 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 5	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 6	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 7	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	New section