



General Assembly

February Session, 2008

Raised Bill No. 5682

LCO No. 2338

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Referred to Committee on Energy and Technology

Introduced by:
(ET)

AN ACT CONCERNING HIGH SPEED BROADBAND ACCESS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2008*) (a) The Department of
2 Economic and Community Development shall enlist a public-private
3 partnership to implement a comprehensive, state-wide high speed
4 Internet deployment strategy and adoption initiative to (1) ensure that
5 all state residents and businesses have access to affordable and reliable
6 high speed Internet service; (2) achieve improved technology literacy,
7 increased computer ownership and home high speed Internet use
8 among state residents and businesses; (3) establish and empower local
9 grassroots technology teams to plan for improved technology use
10 across multiple community sectors; and (4) establish and sustain an
11 environment ripe for state-wide high speed Internet access and
12 technology investment.

13 (b) To accomplish the objectives set forth in sections 1 to 4, inclusive,
14 of this act, the Department of Economic and Community
15 Development, within available appropriations, shall contract with a
16 nonprofit organization with an established competency in working
17 with public and private sectors to accomplish wide-scale deployment

18 and adoption of telecommunications and information technology.

19 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2008*) The public-private
20 partnership established pursuant to section 1 of this act shall include
21 input and cooperation among state agencies and bodies representing
22 economic development, local community development, technology
23 planning, education, healthcare and other relevant entities. The private
24 entities within the partnership shall include providers of broadband
25 service, telecommunications providers, technology companies,
26 community-based organizations and relevant private sector entities to
27 achieve the purposes set forth in said section 1. Private entities
28 submitting data in connection with efforts to develop the high speed
29 Internet deployment strategy pursuant to said section 1 shall only
30 provide such data to the extent and in the format the data is
31 maintained in the normal course of business. Any information
32 designated by the providing entity as confidential or proprietary shall
33 be treated as such and governed by an appropriate nondisclosure
34 agreement. The data submitted by providing entities pursuant to this
35 section shall not be subject to disclosure under chapter 14 of the
36 general statutes.

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

40 (1) Creating a geographic state-wide inventory of high speed
41 Internet service and other relevant telecommunications and
42 information technology services, consistent with any federal data
43 reporting requirements. The inventory shall (A) identify geographic
44 gaps in high speed Internet service through geographic information
45 system mapping of service availability and geographic information
46 system analysis at the census block level; (B) provide a baseline
47 assessment of state-wide high speed Internet deployment in terms of
48 percentage of households with high speed Internet availability; and (C)
49 provide updates to these data every six months;

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

55 (3) Building and facilitating in each county or designated region a
56 local technology planning team with members representing a cross
57 section of the community, including, but not limited to, representatives
58 of business, kindergarten through grade twelve education, health care,
59 libraries, higher education, community-based organizations, local
60 government, tourism, parks and recreation and agriculture. Each team
61 shall benchmark technology use across relevant community sectors, set
62 goals for improved technology use within each sector and develop a
63 business plan to achieve its goals, with specific recommendations for
64 online application development and demand creation;

65 (4) Working collaboratively with high speed Internet providers and
66 technology companies across the state to encourage deployment and
67 use, especially in underserved areas, through the use of local demand
68 aggregation, mapping analysis and the creation of market intelligence
69 to improve the business case for providers to deploy; and

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

72 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2008*) Nothing in sections 1 to 4,
73 inclusive, of this act shall be construed as giving the Department of
74 Community and Economic Development or other entities any
75 additional authority, regulatory or otherwise, over providers of
76 telecommunications and information technology.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	New section

Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	New section
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2008</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To continue progress in the deployment and adoption of high speed Internet services and information technology, which are vital to ensuring that this state remains competitive and continues to create business and job growth, and to encourage and support the partnership of the public and private sectors in the continued growth of high speed Internet and information technology for the state's residents and businesses.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]