



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 570

February Session, 2008

* _____SB00570ET_____031108_____*

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, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after*
4 *October 1, 2010*):

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

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, establish 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. (*Effective October 1, 2008*) On or before March 1, 2009, the
104 Department of Economic and Community Development shall report
105 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 Economic and Community 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, and applicable to assessment years commencing on or after October 1, 2010</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

ET *Joint Favorable Subst.*