



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

Raised Bill No. 6426

LCO No. 3404

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Referred to Committee on Energy and Technology

Introduced by:
(ET)

AN ACT IMPROVING BROADBAND ACCESS.

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

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2009*) (a) As used in this section,
2 "broadband" means a high-speed Internet service whose minimum
3 speed is the higher of either one megabit per second (Mbps) or the
4 minimum speed, as defined by the Federal Communications
5 Commission, and "priority areas" means those parts of the state the
6 Department of Public Utility Control determines to be unserved or
7 underserved in terms of access to broadband.

8 (b) The Department of Public Utility Control shall, in consultation
9 with the Office of Consumer Counsel and the Broadband Internet
10 Coordinating Council, established pursuant to section 4d-100 of the
11 general statutes, develop a state-wide technology initiative program,
12 which shall include, but not be limited to, the following components:

13 (1) Expanding and deploying broadband infrastructure in priority
14 areas and increasing broadband subscriptions. The plan shall include a
15 detailed financial incentives component to award incentives to private
16 providers, municipalities, school systems, public-private partnerships

17 and other enterprises that deploy additional broadband infrastructure
18 to such priority areas or increase Internet speeds to other areas.

19 (2) In partnership with the private sector, establishing a digital
20 technology access and education program to provide information and
21 communications technology to local communities, particularly those in
22 priority areas. Said program may include, but not be limited to,
23 education and skill-building opportunities, hardware and software,
24 Internet connectivity, and development of locally relevant content and
25 delivery of vital services through technology.

26 (3) Providing organizational and capacity building support to
27 groups throughout the state, including, but not limited to,
28 municipalities, the state community colleges, school districts, libraries
29 or senior centers, and identifying and facilitating the availability of
30 other public and private funding sources to enhance the purposes of
31 the state-wide technology initiative established pursuant to this
32 subsection.

33 (4) Establishing a competitive grant program to provide grants to
34 groups throughout the state, including, but not limited to,
35 municipalities, the state community colleges, school districts, libraries
36 or senior centers. Grants shall be used to provide training and skill-
37 building opportunities; provide access to hardware and software;
38 provide Internet connectivity; adopt information and communication
39 technologies in priority areas and develop locally relevant content and
40 delivery of vital services through technology. The department shall
41 develop criteria for awarding grants pursuant to this subdivision,
42 which may include, but not be limited to, eligibility requirements and
43 funding sources.

44 (c) The department, in consultation with telecommunications and
45 Internet service providers, shall create and regularly update a detailed,
46 geographic information system (GIS) map, at the census block level of
47 the broadband services and other relevant telecommunications and
48 information technology services owned or leased by public entities in

49 the state. The map shall include (1) details on how proprietary and
50 competitively sensitive data will be handled, stored and used; (2) a
51 baseline assessment of state-wide broadband deployment in terms of
52 percentage of households with broadband; (3) the amount of excess
53 capacity available; (4) whether the broadband infrastructure is active
54 or inactive; and (5) the geographic gaps in broadband service,
55 including the demographics of the population in each of the
56 geographic gaps.

57 (d) In developing the state-wide technology initiative program and
58 the geographic information system map pursuant to this section, the
59 department shall only collect data maintained in the normal course of
60 business. The department shall treat any information designated by
61 the providing entity as confidential or proprietary as such and shall
62 execute an appropriate nondisclosure agreement. The data submitted
63 by providing entities pursuant to this section shall not be subject to
64 disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, as defined in section
65 1-200 of the general statutes.

66 (e) On or before January 1, 2010, and annually thereafter for five
67 years, the department shall provide a report on the development of the
68 state-wide technology initiative program and the geographic
69 information system map prepared pursuant to this section to the joint
70 standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of
71 matters relating to energy.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2009</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To enlist a public-private partnership to implement a high-speed Internet deployment plan to ensure that all residents and businesses in Connecticut have access to affordable broadband service and to increase technology literacy.

[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.]