

Governor's Bill No. 847  
Committee on Planning And Development

Introduced by:  
Senator Williams, 29<sup>th</sup> District  
Senator Looney, 11<sup>th</sup> District  
Representative Sharkey, 88<sup>th</sup> District  
Representative Aresimowicz, 30<sup>th</sup> District

### An Act Concerning the Commission for Technology Advancement

This represents the Ct GMIS association testimony in support of Senate Bill 847 we support the narrow and wide targets for this proposed Commission.

#### **A Narrow Target Example**

The CT GMIS association of municipal information technology managers sees this proposed Commission providing a mechanism, possibly in the form of subcommittee reviews, to assure municipal access to deploy municipal technology applications enabled by the highest speed, fiber optic cable communications available in the form represented by the Nutmeg Network ARRA project.

Connecticut commercial Internet Service Providers consistently, or at least currently, lag behind data communications speeds available *within* our State's buildings local area network (LAN) architectures.

The 10 billion bits per second (Gbps) connection request submitted to the State's Nutmeg Network Municipal Access Application process is an example of this. A growing number of municipalities and school districts are deploying fiber optic networks connecting their buildings and Local Area Networks (LANs) at 10Gbps. The State Administration informally and Municipal Governments formally recognize that this is a current state-of-the-art electronic communications technology capacity.

This capacity addresses the Tsunami of Voice, Video and Data coming our way from smart phones, digital media sources and interactive electronic education and government. The Municipal Technology Managers that Ct GMIS represents are planning and many are deploying solutions to channel this tsunami within our municipal and education communications architectures over 10Gbps Ethernet LANs. This Commission can serve as the authorizing source that lets our communities push the use of the Nutmeg Network's ARRA fiber optic cabling into the capacity ranges that truly represent "Technology Advancement" ACROSS our municipal and educational architectures, not just within them. It is difficult to being nearly impossible to plan interconnect projects at this Tsunami-handling speed without the State (the owner of the ARRA funded Nutmeg Network) having a way to authorize it – this Commission may do that.

## **The Wide Issue**

The interest of the proposed Commission does also rise to a general point - "Be the liaison between the Governor and the General Assembly and local, state and federal organizations and entities with respect to technology adoption and access matters;".

This of course is of key interest to our GMIS members because it raises for consideration the prospects for "adoption of technology driven business applications". A number of municipal business applications have surfaced as ideas within the Ct GMIS Communication Architecture Committee that can be enabled by broadband in general and the Nutmeg Network in particular; they have surfaced especially with consideration toward collaboration which has value given current financial circumstances across municipalities.

The very knowledgeable Ct GMIS Communication Architecture Committee members and several Municipal I/T managers that joined our ranks after the Committee was formed in early ARRA BTOP grant/BICC days were the source of significant collaborative ideas.

Business applications were submitted as part of the Nutmeg Network application process. These should not be taken as the limit but only as representative of ideas that we know would be feasible – these range from Remote Disaster Response, Reciprocal Backup/Recovery and "Cloud" Systems Virtualization , to state-wide shared municipal business applications such as a Town Clerk Portal for Land Records access, and foundation expertise sharing in advanced applications areas such as GIS and municipal network architecture security.

The proposed Commission targets "Technology Advancement", a broad subject, with specific clauses of particular interest to municipalities - summarizing: 1 A, efficient use of Technology and 1 B, communications technology that improves collaboration.

This Commission provides an opportunity to pursue enabling "Technology Advancement" and to deal with the practical issues of costs and those of finding methods of enablement.

Below are the contact eMail addresses for the municipal I/T management personal that have been involved in formulating the application ideas noted in the actual Nutmeg Network Application Submission. They were instrumental in raising early-on access questions responding to the denial of municipal departments access to the early Connecticut Education Network (CEN) fiber network.

## **Nutmeg Network Governance**

The "municipal facilities" and "at reasonable rates" is legislative wording that we (Ct GMIS) have supported in past Legislative efforts. This Commission is the proposed mechanism for looking after the \$120 million Nutmeg Network investment to insure municipal use at reasonable rates.

We support this new governance and wish to see it meet its goal of Technology Advancement.

Ct GMIS

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