



General Assembly

February Session, 2016

***Raised Bill No. 331***

LCO No. 2074



Referred to Committee on PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Introduced by:  
(PD)

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A HIGH-SPEED INTERNET SERVICE PILOT PROGRAM.***

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

- 1 Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2016*) (a) For the purposes of this section:
- 2 (1) "Municipality" means any town, city, borough, consolidated  
3 town and city or consolidated town and borough.
- 4 (2) "Infrastructure" means the physical elements of a  
5 communications network that serves homes and businesses and is  
6 capable of providing high-speed Internet service that is capable of  
7 increases to ten gigabits per second in the next five years if demand  
8 requires such increases.
- 9 (3) "High-speed Internet service" means data communications  
10 services capable of transmitting one gigabit per second in the  
11 downstream direction, on a sustained basis, to all customers in the  
12 service area who request service.
- 13 (4) "Community antenna television company" and "telephone

14 company" have the same meanings as provided in section 16-1 of the  
15 general statutes.

16 (b) The Office of Policy and Management shall establish a high-  
17 speed Internet service pilot program to support the development of  
18 infrastructure. The Office of Policy and Management shall develop and  
19 issue, in consultation with the Office of Consumer Counsel, the  
20 Department of Economic and Community Development and the  
21 Department of Administrative Services, a request for proposals from  
22 individual municipalities and groups of two or more municipalities.  
23 Municipalities may join in a proposal with one or more additional  
24 entities, including, but not limited to, a telephone company,  
25 community antenna television company, Internet service provider or  
26 for-profit or nonprofit business. Each proposal must demonstrate the  
27 ability of the applicant to support the development of infrastructure by  
28 accessing funds matching or exceeding the amount sought in the  
29 proposal. Such demonstration may include commitments from private  
30 entities.

31 (c) The Office of Policy and Management, in consultation with the  
32 Office of Consumer Counsel, the Department of Economic and  
33 Community Development and the Department of Administrative  
34 Services, shall award grants under the high-speed Internet service pilot  
35 program to one or more applicants. Criteria for selection shall include,  
36 but are not limited to, financial viability, technical viability, anticipated  
37 cost of high-speed Internet service to subscribers, projected longevity  
38 of the infrastructure to be developed, and the demand and need for  
39 high-speed Internet service for economic development, education,  
40 health care, public safety or the promotion of access to high-speed  
41 Internet service by low-income residents. Each grant shall only be used  
42 for the development of infrastructure in municipalities where access to  
43 high-speed Internet service does not exist or is severely limited. If  
44 possible, grants shall be awarded to at least two applicants with  
45 population densities higher than average, and at least two applicants  
46 with population densities lower than average.

47 (d) Not later than one year after receiving a grant under the high-  
48 speed Internet service pilot program, and annually for a period of four  
49 years thereafter, each grant recipient shall submit a report to the Office  
50 of Policy and Management, the Office of Consumer Council, the  
51 Department of Economic and Community Development and the  
52 Department of Administrative Services, and, in accordance with  
53 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committees of  
54 the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to  
55 appropriations and energy and technology. Such report shall include  
56 information concerning the status of the grant recipient's high-speed  
57 Internet services.

58 (e) The sum of twenty million dollars is appropriated to the Office  
59 of Policy and Management, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year  
60 ending June 30, 2017, for the purpose of implementing the high-speed  
61 Internet service pilot program, provided the Office of Policy and  
62 Management may utilize not more than one million dollars of that sum  
63 for management and administration of the high-speed Internet service  
64 pilot program, including periodic audits and ongoing verification of  
65 compliance with award terms by grant recipients.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2016	New section

**Statement of Purpose:**

To require the Office of Policy and Management to establish a high-speed Internet service pilot program.

*[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.]*