
ENGROSSED SECOND SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1698

State of Washington

61st Legislature

2009 Regular Session

By House Finance (originally sponsored by Representatives Hudgins and McCoy)

READ FIRST TIME 03/03/09.

1 AN ACT Relating to broadband adoption and deployment; adding new
2 sections to chapter 43.105 RCW; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds and declares the
5 following:

6 (1) The deployment and adoption of high-speed internet services and
7 technology advancements enhances economic development and public safety
8 for the state's communities, as well as offering improved health care
9 and access to consumer and legal services, increased educational and
10 civic participation opportunities, and a better quality of life for the
11 state's residents.

12 (2) Improvements in the deployment and adoption of high-speed
13 internet services and the strategic inclusion of technology
14 advancements and technology education are critical to ensuring that
15 Washington remains competitive and continues to provide a skilled
16 workforce, attract businesses, and stimulate job growth.

17 (3) The state must encourage and support strategic partnerships of
18 public, private, nonprofit, and community-based sectors in the
19 continued growth and development of high-speed internet services and

1 information technology for state residents and businesses. This
2 includes ensuring digital inclusion in internet access, technology
3 literacy, digital media literacy, and that all Washingtonians are able
4 to obtain and utilize broadband fully, regardless of location, economic
5 status, literacy level, age, disability, or the size of the business or
6 nonprofit organization.

7 (4) In light of the importance of broadband deployment and adoption
8 to the economy, health, safety, and welfare of the people of
9 Washington, it is essential the legislature create a broadband programs
10 management structure to ensure development and implementation of
11 statewide broadband strategies, with the ultimate goal of making high-
12 speed internet service more readily available throughout the state,
13 especially in areas with an uptake rate for high-speed internet below
14 the state median.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.105 RCW
16 to read as follows:

17 The department may continue the work of the high-speed internet
18 strategy work group convened in 2008 by continuing to consult with
19 representatives of telecommunications providers, technology companies,
20 telecommunications unions, health care providers, community technology
21 organizations, higher education, K-12 educators, and other relevant
22 entities to implement high-speed internet deployment and adoption
23 strategies, subject to available funding, that may include, but is not
24 limited to:

25 (1) Developing programs to provide low-income families with reduced
26 cost internet access or programs to provide low-cost internet access to
27 nonprofit entities as suggested in the K-20 program;

28 (2) Securing additional funding for technology literacy, digital
29 media literacy, and digital inclusion programs;

30 (3) Identifying broadband demand opportunities in communities by
31 working cooperatively with local organizations, government agencies,
32 and businesses;

33 (4) Developing last-mile technology loan programs targeting small
34 businesses or businesses located in underserved areas; and

35 (5) Establishing low-cost hardware, software, and internet
36 purchasing programs such as including community technology
37 organizations in state hardware and software purchasing programs.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.105 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 (1) The department may apply for and receive federal funding for
4 the purposes of creating or supporting broadband adoption and
5 deployment opportunities consistent with section 2 of this act.

6 (2) The department is designated as the single eligible entity in
7 the state to receive federal funding for purposes of the broadband data
8 improvement act, P.L. 110-385.

9 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 43.105 RCW
10 to read as follows:

11 Subject to the availability of federal or state funding
12 appropriated for this specific purpose, the department must track
13 residential, nonprofit organization, and business adoption of high-
14 speed internet, computers, and related information technology through
15 publicly available sources and must work with communities to identify
16 barriers to the adoption of broadband services and related information
17 technology services by individuals, nonprofit organizations, and
18 businesses.

--- END ---