

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## SB 5628

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As of February 2, 2009

**Title:** An act relating to internet protocol services.

**Brief Description:** Concerning the regulation of certain internet protocol services.

**Sponsors:** Senators Haugen, Kastama, Delvin, Hobbs, Shin, Jacobsen, Kohl-Welles, Marr, McAuliffe, Berkey and Stevens.

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Economic Development, Trade & Innovation: 2/04/09.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRADE & INNOVATION

**Staff:** Jack Brummel (786-7428)

**Background:** The internet protocol is the method or protocol by which data is sent from one computer to another on the internet. Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) is a technology that allows voice calls to be made using a broadband internet connection instead of a regular, or analog, phone line.

The Federal Communications Commission has enacted regulations to ensure that VoIP providers comply with public safety requirements and public policy goals. The regulations cover enhanced 911 service, consumer privacy, contributions to a universal service fund, accessibility for persons with disabilities, and local number portability requirements.

The state of Washington does not currently have regulations covering VoIP.

**Summary of Bill:** Definitions of "VoIP service" and "internet protocol-enabled service" are provided.

Neither the state nor its agencies or subdivisions may regulate VoIP or internet protocol-enabled service regarding rates, the terms and conditions of service, or market entry.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.