

2SSB 6775 - H COMM AMD

By Appropriations Subcommittee on Education

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that information
4 technology plays an increasingly important role in the state's economy
5 but that the knowledge level and adoption of information technologies
6 are limited in some areas of the state. It is the intent of this act
7 to address digital literacy and technology training needs of low-income
8 and technology underserved residents of the state through state support
9 of community technology programs.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The definitions in this section apply
11 throughout this chapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise.

12 (1) "Administrator" means the community technology opportunity
13 program administrator designated by the Washington State University
14 extension.

15 (2) "Community technology program" means a program, including a
16 digital inclusion program, engaged in diffusing information and
17 communications technology in local communities, particularly in
18 underserved areas. These programs may include, but are not limited to,
19 programs that provide education and skill-building opportunities,
20 hardware and software, internet connectivity, and development of
21 locally relevant content and delivery of vital services through
22 technology.

23 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The community technology opportunity program
24 is created to support the efforts of community technology programs
25 throughout the state. The community technology opportunity program
26 must be administered by the Washington State University extension. The
27 Washington State University extension may contract for services in
28 order to carry out the extension's obligations under this section.

1 (1) In implementing the community technology opportunity program
2 the administrator must:

3 (a) Provide organizational and capacity building support to
4 community technology programs throughout the state, and identify and
5 facilitate the availability of other public and private sources of
6 funds to enhance the purposes of this chapter and the work of community
7 technology programs. No more than fifteen percent of funds received by
8 the administrator for the program may be expended on these functions;

9 (b) Establish a competitive grant program and provide grants to
10 community technology programs to provide training and skill-building
11 opportunities; access to hardware and software; internet connectivity;
12 assistance in the adoption of information and communication
13 technologies in low-income and underserved areas of the state; and
14 development of locally relevant content and delivery of vital services
15 through technology.

16 (2) Grant applicants must:

17 (a) Provide evidence that the applicant is a nonprofit entity or a
18 public entity that is working in partnership with a nonprofit entity;

19 (b) Define the geographic area or population to be served;

20 (c) Include in the application the results of a needs assessment
21 addressing, in the geographic area or among the population to be
22 served: The impact of inadequacies in technology access or knowledge,
23 barriers faced, and services needed;

24 (d) Explain in detail the strategy for addressing the needs
25 identified and an implementation plan including objectives, tasks, and
26 benchmarks for the applicant and the role that other organizations will
27 play in assisting the applicant's efforts;

28 (e) Provide evidence of matching funds and resources, which are
29 equivalent to at least one-quarter of the grant amount committed to the
30 applicant's strategy;

31 (f) Provide evidence that funds applied for, if received, will be
32 used to provide effective delivery of community technology services in
33 alignment with the goals of this chapter and to increase the
34 applicant's level of effort beyond the current level; and

35 (g) Comply with such other requirements as the administrator
36 establishes.

37 (3) The administrator may use no more than ten percent of funds

1 received for the community technology opportunity program to cover
2 administrative expenses.

3 (4) The administrator must establish expected program outcomes for
4 each grant recipient and must require grant recipients to provide an
5 annual accounting of program outcomes.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The Washington community technology
7 opportunity account is established in the state treasury. Donated
8 funds from private and public sources may be deposited into the
9 account. Expenditures from the account may be used only for the
10 operation of the community technology opportunity program as provided
11 in sections 1 through 3 of this act. Only the administrator or the
12 administrator's designee may authorize expenditures from the account.

13 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 1 through 4 of this act constitute
14 a new chapter in Title 28B RCW.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** If specific funding for the purposes of this
16 act, referencing this act by bill or chapter number, is not provided by
17 June 30, 2008, in the omnibus appropriations act, this act is null and
18 void."

19 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Adds a null and void clause. The bill is null and void
unless funded in the budget. Deletes the definition of
"telecommunications company," which is not used in the bill.

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