
SECOND SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6438

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Kohl-Welles, Rockefeller, Oemig, Honeyford, Murray, Delvin, and Pridemore)

READ FIRST TIME 02/12/08.

1 AN ACT Relating to a statewide high-speed internet deployment and
2 adoption initiative; adding new sections to chapter 43.105 RCW; and
3 providing an expiration date.

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

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

7 (1) The legislature finds that the deployment and adoption of
8 telecommunications services and information technology has resulted in
9 enhanced economic development and public safety for the state's
10 communities, improved health care and educational opportunities, and a
11 better quality of life for the state's residents. Further, continued
12 progress in the deployment and adoption of high-speed internet and
13 other advanced telecommunications services, both land-based and
14 wireless, is vital to ensuring Washington remains competitive and
15 continues to create business and job growth. The legislature finds
16 that the state must encourage and support strategic partnerships of
17 public, private, nonprofit, and community-based sectors in the
18 continued growth and development of telecommunications and information

1 technology for state residents and businesses, and do so through
2 formalized and structured arrangements like the highly successful K-20
3 educational network.

4 (2) The department, as the state agency responsible for
5 coordinating with the education sectors on the K-20 educational
6 network, shall work in similar partnership with the department of
7 community, trade, and economic development and the utilities and
8 transportation commission to oversee and lead a comprehensive,
9 statewide high-speed internet deployment and adoption effort with the
10 following goals:

11 (a) Ensure that all state residents and businesses have access to
12 affordable and reliable high-speed internet services;

13 (b) Achieve improved technology literacy, increased computer
14 ownership, and high-speed internet use among state residents, nonprofit
15 organizations, and businesses;

16 (c) Establish and empower local technology planning teams and
17 partnerships to plan for improved technology use across multiple
18 community sectors;

19 (d) Establish and sustain an environment ripe for
20 telecommunications and technology investment statewide, including
21 solicitation and receipt of grants, loans, and other financial
22 mechanisms; and

23 (e) Create and regularly update a geographic statewide inventory at
24 the census block level of high-speed internet service and other
25 relevant telecommunications and information technology services.

26 (3) After the broadband disparity study authorized by the
27 legislature in 2007 has been completed, the partnership in subsection
28 (2) of this section shall convene an initial work group of
29 representatives of public, private, and nonprofit agencies and
30 organizations representing economic development, local community
31 development, community planning, technology planning, education, health
32 care, and other relevant entities as well as representatives of
33 telecommunications providers, technology companies, telecommunications
34 unions, community-based organizations, and relevant private sector
35 entities.

36 (4) By December 1, 2008, the partnership in subsection (2) of this
37 section and the work group in subsection (3) of this section shall

1 develop a high-speed internet deployment and adoption strategy that
2 will:

3 (a) Create and regularly update a geographic statewide inventory of
4 high-speed internet service and other relevant telecommunications and
5 information technology services. The inventory must:

6 (i) Identify geographic gaps in high-speed internet service through
7 a method of geographic information system mapping of service
8 availability and geographic information system analysis;

9 (ii) Provide a baseline assessment of statewide high-speed internet
10 deployment in terms of percentage of households and businesses with
11 high-speed internet availability;

12 (iii) Provide updates to these data every six months; and

13 (iv) Build upon the initial utilities and transportation commission
14 broadband disparity study authorized by the legislature in 2007;

15 (b) Track statewide residential and business adoption of high-speed
16 internet, computers, and related information technology; identify
17 barriers to adoption; and measure progress on these data annually;

18 (c) Build and facilitate local technology planning teams and
19 partnerships with members representing cross-sections of the community,
20 including but not limited to representatives of business,
21 telecommunications unions, K-12 education, health care, libraries,
22 higher education, community-based organizations, local government,
23 tourism, parks and recreation, and agriculture. Local technology
24 planning teams shall benchmark technology use across relevant community
25 sectors, set goals for improving technology use within each sector, and
26 develop tactical business plans for achieving identified goals, with
27 specific recommendations for online application development and demand
28 creation;

29 (d) Work collaboratively with high-speed internet providers and
30 technology companies across the state to encourage deployment and use,
31 especially in unserved areas, through use of local demand aggregation,
32 mapping analysis, and creation of market intelligence to improve the
33 investment rationale and business case; and

34 (e) Establish programs to improve computer ownership, technology
35 literacy, and internet access for disenfranchised populations across
36 the state.

37 (5) The partnership in subsection (2) of this section and the work
38 group in subsection (3) of this section shall provide a report to the

1 fiscal and telecommunications committees in the senate and the house of
2 representatives on or before December 1, 2008. The report shall
3 identify and make recommendations as appropriate for:

4 (a) Benchmarks, performance measures, milestones, deliverables,
5 timelines, and such other indicators of performance and progress as are
6 necessary to guide development and implementation of the statewide
7 high-speed internet deployment and adoption effort;

8 (b) A strategic plan to structure and appropriately scale and phase
9 development and implementation of the effort so as to link to,
10 leverage, and otherwise synchronize with other relevant and related
11 funding, technology, capital initiatives, investments, and
12 opportunities;

13 (c) Budget and legislation to be considered before the 2009
14 legislature in order to implement the strategic high-speed internet
15 deployment and adoption strategy;

16 (d) Safeguards to protect proprietary and confidential information
17 from unintended disclosure under chapter 42.56 RCW, which may be based
18 upon existing models developed by other state broadband efforts to
19 protect proprietary information;

20 (e) A plan to complete baseline mapping of high-speed internet
21 resources in the state in an eighteen-month period, subject to approval
22 of the plan and appropriation by the legislature; and

23 (f) A plan to launch community teams across the state.

24 (6) The partnership in subsection (2) of this section shall provide
25 an annual progress report together with any recommendations for
26 strengthening the program to the fiscal and telecommunications
27 committees in the senate and the house of representatives not later
28 than December 1st, beginning in 2009, and cover the preceding fiscal
29 year.

30 (7) The partnership in subsection (2) of this section may contract
31 with other organizations to accomplish the objectives in this section.
32 Any such organization shall have an established competency in working
33 with public and private sectors to accomplish wide-scale deployment and
34 adoption of telecommunications and information technology.

35 (8) This section expires June 30, 2011.

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

1 (1) By January 1, 2009, the department, in consultation with the
2 utilities and transportation commission and other relevant agencies,
3 shall identify and make publicly available a web directory of
4 facilities that provide community technology programs throughout the
5 state.

6 (2) For the purposes of this section, "community technology
7 program," also known as a digital inclusion program, means a program
8 engaged in diffusing information and communications technology in local
9 communities, particularly in underserved areas. These programs may
10 include, but are not limited to, programs that provide education and
11 skill-building opportunities, hardware and software, internet
12 connectivity, and development of locally relevant content and delivery
13 of vital services through technology.

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