
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 new sections.

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 that may include, but is not limited to:

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

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

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

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

34 (5) Establishing low-cost hardware, software, and internet
35 purchasing programs such as including community technology
36 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 The department may apply for and receive federal funding for the
4 purposes of creating or supporting broadband adoption and deployment
5 opportunities consistent with section 2 of this act.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is null and void if federal funding
7 is not received for the purposes of this act by July 1, 2009.

--- END ---