
SENATE BILL 5120

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2007 Regular Session

By Senators Kohl-Welles, Poulsen, Rockefeller, Schoesler, Brown, Delvin, Hatfield and Kilmer

Read first time 01/11/2007. Referred to Committee on Water, Energy & Telecommunications.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring a survey on the deployment of
2 broadband technologies among households in the state; adding a new
3 section to chapter 42.56 RCW; creating new sections; and making an
4 appropriation.

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

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that broadband
7 technologies, which enable the high-speed transmission of electronic
8 information, play a fundamental role in the state's economy, are
9 essential for electronic commerce and telecommuting, and are critical
10 for 21st century learning and medicine. However, broadband
11 technologies are not evenly dispersed and utilized among the state's
12 citizens. Rural, inner-city, and low-income households may be unable
13 to reap the benefits of broadband access. In order to develop a
14 strategy for encouraging the cost-effective deployment of broadband
15 technologies in the state, the legislature intends to identify factors
16 preventing the widespread availability and use of broadband
17 technologies.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** The department of community, trade, and
2 economic development shall commission a survey on the deployment of
3 broadband technologies among households in the state. The survey shall
4 be conducted by an appropriate entity having expertise in the access
5 and utilization of modern information technologies among underserved
6 populations.

7 The survey shall collect and interpret statistically reliable
8 geographic, demographic, and telecommunications technology information
9 to identify any broadband deployment disparities in the state. The
10 survey shall also produce a statistically reliable profile of the
11 following:

12 (1) Households and businesses in the state with no available
13 broadband options;

14 (2) Households and businesses in the state with access to broadband
15 options, but who choose not to purchase an option; and

16 (3) Purposes for which broadband is used by households and
17 businesses in the state.

18 The survey is due by December 31, 2007, and shall be presented to
19 the appropriate committees of the legislature having jurisdiction over
20 telecommunications issues. The study may be presented in an electronic
21 form.

22 The following definitions apply to this act unless the context
23 clearly requires otherwise:

24 "Broadband" means any transmission technology capable of speeds in
25 excess of two hundred kilobits per second in at least one direction.

26 "Geographic information" includes postal zip code groupings
27 representative of the diverse populations of the state.

28 "Demographic information" includes age, income, and education
29 level.

30 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 42.56 RCW
31 to read as follows:

32 The names and identification data of any person, household, or
33 business participating in a survey under this act are exempt from
34 disclosure under this chapter.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** The sum of one hundred sixty-five thousand
36 dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for

1 the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, from the general fund to the
2 department of community, trade, and economic development for the
3 purpose of commissioning a survey on the deployment of broadband
4 technologies among households in the state in accordance with the
5 provisions of this act.

--- END ---