

2SHB 1698 - H AMD 293

By Representative McCoy

ADOPTED 3/10/2009

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

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4 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds and declares the  
5 following:

6 (1) The deployment and adoption of high-speed internet services  
7 and technology advancements enhances economic development and public  
8 safety for the state's communities, as well as offering improved  
9 health care and access to consumer and legal services, increased  
10 educational and civic participation opportunities, and a better  
11 quality of life for the 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  
20 information technology for state residents and businesses. This  
21 includes ensuring digital inclusion in internet access, technology  
22 literacy, digital media literacy, and that all Washingtonians are able  
23 to obtain and utilize broadband fully, regardless of location,  
24 economic status, literacy level, age, disability, or the size of the  
25 business or nonprofit organization.

26 (4) In light of the importance of broadband deployment and  
27 adoption to the economy, health, safety, and welfare of the people of

1 Washington, it is essential the legislature create a broadband  
2 programs management structure to ensure development and implementation  
3 of statewide broadband strategies, with the ultimate goal of making  
4 high-speed internet service more readily available throughout the  
5 state, especially in areas with an uptake rate for high-speed internet  
6 below the state median.

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

10 The department may continue the work of the high-speed internet  
11 strategy work group convened in 2008 by continuing to consult with  
12 representatives of telecommunications providers, technology companies,  
13 telecommunications unions, health care providers, community technology  
14 organizations, higher education, K-12 educators, and other relevant  
15 entities to implement high-speed internet deployment and adoption  
16 strategies, subject to available funding, that may include, but is not  
17 limited to:

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

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

23 (3) Identifying broadband demand opportunities in communities by  
24 working cooperatively with local organizations, government agencies,  
25 and businesses;

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

28 (5) Establishing low-cost hardware, software, and internet  
29 purchasing programs such as including community technology  
30 organizations in state hardware and software purchasing programs.

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32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 43.105  
33 RCW to read as follows:

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1 (1) The department may apply for and receive federal funding for  
2 the purposes of creating or supporting broadband adoption and  
3 deployment opportunities consistent with section 2 of this act.

4 (2) The department is designated as the single eligible entity in  
5 the state to receive federal funding for purposes of the broadband  
6 data improvement act, P.L. 110-385.

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8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 43.105  
9 RCW to read as follows:

10 Subject to the availability of federal or state funding  
11 appropriated for this specific purpose, the department must track  
12 residential, nonprofit organization, and business adoption of high-  
13 speed internet, computers, and related information technology through  
14 publicly available sources and must work with communities to identify  
15 barriers to the adoption of broadband services and related information  
16 technology services by individuals, nonprofit organizations, and  
17 businesses."

18  
19 Correct the title

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22  
**EFFECT:** Adds a provision requiring the Department of Information  
Services (DIS), subject to available funding, to track adoption of  
high-speed internet, computers, and related information technology  
and to identify barriers to adoption. Designates the DIS as the  
single eligible entity for purposes of receiving federal broadband  
funding. Removes the null and void clause.

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