

**HB 1698-S2.E - DIGEST**

(AS OF HOUSE 2ND READING 3/10/2009)

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

Authorizes the department of information services to: (1) Continue the work of the high-speed internet strategy work group convened in 2008 by continuing to consult with representatives of telecommunications providers, technology companies, telecommunications unions, health care providers, community technology organizations, higher education, K-12 educators, and other relevant entities to implement high-speed internet deployment and adoption strategies subject to available funding; and

(2) Apply for and receive federal funding for the purposes of creating or supporting broadband adoption and deployment opportunities consistent with section 2 of the act.

Designates the department of information services as the single eligible entity in the state to receive federal funding for purposes of the broadband data improvement act, P.L. 110-385.

Requires the department of information services, subject to the availability of federal or state funding appropriated for this specific purpose, to: (1) Track residential, nonprofit organization, and business adoption of high-speed internet, computers, and related information technology through publicly available sources; and

(2) Work with communities to identify barriers to the adoption of broadband services and related information technology services by individuals, nonprofit organizations, and businesses.