
HOUSE BILL 2161

State of Washington

59th Legislature

2005 Regular Session

By Representatives Hasegawa and Chase

Read first time 02/21/2005. Referred to Committee on Technology,
Energy & Communications.

1 AN ACT Relating to creating a legislative task force to study
2 telecommunications and information technology; creating a new section;
3 and providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1)(a) A legislative task force on
6 telecommunications and information technology is established. The task
7 force shall consist of the following members:

8 (i) Seven members from each of the two largest caucuses of the
9 senate, appointed by the president of the senate; at least one member
10 from each caucus shall be a member of the senate labor, commerce,
11 research, and development committee;

12 (ii) Seven members from each of the two largest caucuses of the
13 house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of
14 representatives; at least one member from each caucus shall be a member
15 of the house technology, energy, and communications committee;

16 (iii) Five members representing telecommunications and information
17 industries including but not limited to cable industry representatives,
18 broadcast and print media, and internet representatives, appointed

1 jointly by the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of
2 representatives; and

3 (iv) Five members representing consumer groups and the general
4 public, including community-based noncommercial media, appointed
5 jointly by the president of the senate and the speaker of the house of
6 representatives.

7 (b) In addition, the department of information services and office
8 of financial management shall cooperate with the task force and
9 maintain a liaison representative, who shall be a nonvoting member.
10 The department shall cooperate with the task force and provide
11 information as the chair may reasonably request. The task force shall
12 choose its chair from among its membership.

13 (2) The task force shall review the following issues:

- 14 (a) Taxation of telecommunications, cable, and internet services;
- 15 (b) Sales taxes as related to online commerce;
- 16 (c) Taxes on radio and television advertising;
- 17 (d) Taxes on satellite services;
- 18 (e) Use of public rights of way by the entities in (a) through (d)
19 of this subsection;
- 20 (f) The impact of these taxes on the revenue needs of local
21 governments; and
- 22 (g) The impact of changing technologies and universal service
23 policies.

24 (3) The task force, where feasible, may consult with individuals
25 from the public and private sector or ask such persons to establish an
26 advisory committee.

27 (4)(a) The task force shall use legislative facilities, and staff
28 support shall be provided by senate committee services and the house of
29 representatives office of program research. The task force may hire
30 additional staff with specific technical expertise if such expertise is
31 necessary to carry out the mandates of this study.

32 (b) Legislative members of the task force shall be reimbursed for
33 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative
34 members, except those representing an employer or organization, are
35 entitled to receive compensation in accordance with RCW 43.03.240 and
36 be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW 43.03.050 and
37 43.03.060, such reimbursement to be paid jointly by the senate and the
38 house of representatives.

1 (c) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, the expenses of
2 the task force shall be paid jointly by the senate and the house of
3 representatives.

4 (5) The task force shall report its findings and recommendations to
5 the legislature by December 1, 2006.

6 (6) This section expires July 1, 2007.

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