
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6438

State of Washington

60th Legislature

2008 Regular Session

By Senate Water, Energy & Telecommunications (originally sponsored by Senators Kohl-Welles, Rockefeller, Oemig, Honeyford, Murray, Delvin, and Pridemore)

READ FIRST TIME 02/06/08.

1 AN ACT Relating to a statewide high-speed internet deployment and
2 adoption effort; adding a new section to chapter 43.105 RCW; and
3 providing an expiration date.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** A new section is added to chapter 43.105 RCW
6 to read as follows:

7 (1) The legislature finds that the deployment and adoption of
8 telecommunications services and information technology has resulted in
9 enhanced economic development and public safety for the state's
10 communities, improved health care and educational opportunities, and a
11 better quality of life for the state's residents. Further, continued
12 progress in the deployment and adoption of high-speed internet and
13 other advanced telecommunications services, both land-based and
14 wireless, is vital to ensuring Washington remains competitive and
15 continues to create business and job growth. The legislature finds
16 that the state must encourage and support strategic partnerships of
17 public, private, nonprofit, and community-based sectors in the
18 continued growth and development of telecommunications and information

1 technology for state residents and businesses, and do so through
2 formalized and structured arrangements like the highly successful K-20
3 educational network.

4 (2) The department, as the state agency responsible for
5 coordinating with the education sectors on the K-20 educational
6 network, shall work in similar partnership with the department of
7 community, trade, and economic development and the utilities and
8 transportation commission to oversee and lead a comprehensive,
9 statewide high-speed internet deployment and adoption effort with the
10 following goals:

11 (a) Ensure that all state residents and businesses have access to
12 affordable and reliable high-speed internet services;

13 (b) Achieve improved technology literacy, increased computer
14 ownership, and high-speed internet use among state residents and
15 businesses;

16 (c) Establish and empower local technology planning teams and
17 partnerships to plan for improved technology use across multiple
18 community sectors; and

19 (d) Establish and sustain an environment ripe for
20 telecommunications and technology investment statewide, including
21 solicitation and receipt of grants, loans, and other financial
22 mechanisms.

23 (3) The partnership in subsection (2) of this section shall convene
24 an initial work group of representatives of public, private, and
25 nonprofit agencies and organizations representing economic development,
26 local community development, community planning, technology planning,
27 education, health care, and other relevant entities as well as
28 representatives of telecommunications providers, technology companies,
29 telecommunications unions, community-based organizations, and relevant
30 private sector entities.

31 (4) The partnership in subsection (2) of this section and the work
32 group in subsection (3) of this section shall, as specified in its
33 December 1, 2008, report:

34 (a) Create and regularly update a geographic statewide inventory of
35 high-speed internet service and other relevant telecommunications and
36 information technology services. The inventory shall:

37 (i) Identify geographic gaps in high-speed internet service through

1 a method of geographic information system mapping of service
2 availability and geographic information system analysis at the census
3 block level;

4 (ii) Provide a baseline assessment of statewide high-speed internet
5 deployment in terms of percentage of households and businesses with
6 high-speed internet availability;

7 (iii) Provide updates to these data every six months; and

8 (iv) Build upon the initial utilities and transportation commission
9 broadband disparity study authorized by the legislature in 2007;

10 (b) Track statewide residential and business adoption of high-speed
11 internet, computers, and related information technology; identify
12 barriers to adoption; and measure progress on these data annually;

13 (c) Build and facilitate local technology planning teams and
14 partnerships with members representing cross-sections of the community,
15 including but not limited to representatives of business,
16 telecommunications unions, K-12 education, health care, libraries,
17 higher education, community-based organizations, local government,
18 tourism, parks and recreation, and agriculture. Local technology
19 planning teams shall benchmark technology use across relevant community
20 sectors, set goals for improving technology use within each sector, and
21 develop tactical business plans for achieving identified goals, with
22 specific recommendations for online application development and demand
23 creation;

24 (d) Work collaboratively with high-speed internet providers and
25 technology companies across the state to encourage deployment and use,
26 especially in unserved areas, through use of local demand aggregation,
27 mapping analysis, and creation of market intelligence to improve the
28 investment rationale and business case; and

29 (e) Establish programs to improve computer ownership and internet
30 access for disenfranchised populations across the state.

31 (5) The partnership in subsection (2) of this section and the work
32 group in subsection (3) of this section shall provide a report to the
33 fiscal and telecommunications committees in the senate and the house of
34 representatives on or before December 1, 2008. The report shall
35 identify and make recommendations as appropriate for:

36 (a) Benchmarks, performance measures, milestones, deliverables,
37 timelines, and such other indicators of performance and progress as are

1 necessary to guide development and implementation of the statewide
2 high-speed internet deployment and adoption effort;

3 (b) A strategic plan to structure and appropriately scale and phase
4 development and implementation of the effort so as to link to,
5 leverage, and otherwise synchronize with other relevant and related
6 funding, technology, capital initiatives, investments, and
7 opportunities;

8 (c) Budget and legislation to be considered before the 2009
9 legislature;

10 (d) Safeguards to protect proprietary and confidential information
11 from unintended disclosure under chapter 42.56 RCW;

12 (e) A plan showing completion of baseline mapping of the state by
13 July 1, 2009, building on the pilot survey conducted by the utilities
14 and transportation commission; and

15 (f) A plan to launch community teams across the state by July 1,
16 2009.

17 (6) The partnership in subsection (2) of this section shall provide
18 an annual progress report together with any recommendations for
19 strengthening the program to the fiscal and telecommunications
20 committees in the senate and the house of representatives not later
21 than December 1st, beginning in 2009, and cover the preceding fiscal
22 year.

23 (7) The partnership in subsection (2) of this section may contract
24 with other organizations to accomplish the objectives in this section.
25 Any such organization shall have an established competency in working
26 with public and private sectors to accomplish wide-scale deployment and
27 adoption of telecommunications and information technology.

28 (8) This section expires June 30, 2011.

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