
SENATE BILL 6438

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2008 Regular Session

By Senators Kohl-Welles, Rockefeller, Oemig, Honeyford, Murray,
Delvin, and Pridemore

Read first time 01/16/08. Referred to Committee on Water, Energy &
Telecommunications.

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

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

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

6 (1) The legislature finds that the deployment and adoption of
7 telecommunications services and information technology has resulted in
8 enhanced economic development and public safety for the state's
9 communities, improved health care and educational opportunities, and a
10 better quality of life for the state's residents. Further, continued
11 progress in the deployment and adoption of high-speed internet and
12 other advanced telecommunications services, both land-based and
13 wireless, is vital to ensuring Washington remains competitive and
14 continues to create business and job growth. The legislature finds
15 that the state must encourage and support strategic partnerships of
16 public, private, and nonprofit sectors in the continued growth and
17 development of telecommunications and information technology for state
18 residents and businesses, and do so through formalized and structured
19 arrangements like the highly successful K-20 educational network.

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

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

9 (b) Achieve improved technology literacy, increased computer
10 ownership, and high-speed internet use among state residents and
11 businesses;

12 (c) Establish and empower local technology planning teams and
13 partnerships to plan for improved technology use across multiple
14 community sectors; and

15 (d) Establish and sustain an environment ripe for
16 telecommunications and technology investment statewide, including
17 solicitation and receipt of grants, loans, and other financial
18 mechanisms.

19 (3) The partnership in subsection (2) of this section shall include
20 input and cooperation among public, private, and nonprofit agencies and
21 organizations representing economic development, local community
22 development, technology planning, education, health care, and other
23 relevant entities. The partnership shall additionally collaborate with
24 telecommunications providers, technology companies, telecommunications
25 unions, community-based organizations, and relevant private sector
26 entities to achieve the purposes in subsection (2) of this section.

27 (4) The high-speed internet deployment and adoption effort in
28 subsection (2) of this section shall include, but not be limited to:

29 (a) Creating and regularly updating a geographic statewide
30 inventory of high-speed internet service and other relevant
31 telecommunications and information technology services. The inventory
32 shall:

33 (i) Identify geographic gaps in high-speed internet service through
34 a method of geographic information system mapping of service
35 availability and geographic information system analysis at the census
36 block level;

37 (ii) Provide a baseline assessment of statewide high-speed internet

1 deployment in terms of percentage of households and businesses with
2 high-speed internet availability;

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

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

6 (b) Tracking statewide residential and business adoption of high-
7 speed internet, computers, and related information technology;
8 identifying barriers to adoption; and measuring progress on these data
9 annually;

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

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

26 (e) Establishing programs to improve computer ownership and
27 internet access for disenfranchised populations across the state.

28 (5) The partnership in subsection (2) of this section may contract
29 with other organizations to accomplish the objectives in this section.
30 Any such organization shall have an established competency in working
31 with public and private sectors to accomplish wide-scale deployment and
32 adoption of telecommunications and information technology.

33 (6) The partnership in subsection (2) of this section shall provide
34 a report on the partnership's activities to the fiscal and
35 telecommunications committees in the senate and house of
36 representatives, together with any recommendations for strengthening

1 the program. The report shall be provided annually not later than
2 December 1st, beginning in 2009, and cover the preceding fiscal year.

--- END ---