
HOUSE BILL 1699

State of Washington 61st Legislature 2009 Regular Session

By Representatives Hudgins, McCoy, Hasegawa, and Moeller

Read first time 01/27/09. Referred to Committee on Technology, Energy & Communications.

1 AN ACT Relating to implementing high-speed internet adoption
2 recommendations for the state; adding new sections to chapter 43.105
3 RCW; creating new sections; and repealing RCW 43.105.350.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds and declares the
6 following:

7 (a) Deployment and adoption of high-speed internet services will
8 promote economic development, improve health care and educational
9 opportunities, allow workers to participate in telecommuting programs,
10 and enhance the quality of life of state residents; and

11 (b) Continued progress in the deployment and adoption of high-speed
12 internet service is vital to ensuring that Washington remains
13 competitive and continues to create business and job growth.

14 (2) Therefore, in order to promote economic development in the
15 region and ensure that Washington remains competitive, the legislature
16 intends to take initial steps to implement a high-speed internet
17 deployment and adoption strategy for the state.

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

3 (1) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this
4 specific purpose, the department shall implement a high-speed internet
5 deployment and adoption strategy on behalf of the state.

6 (2) The department may contract with an independent, third-party
7 organization to prepare a statewide map, which may include adoption
8 information, availability information, types of technology used, and
9 available speed tiers for high-speed internet.

10 (3) The department may solicit and receive gifts, grants, and
11 bequests for high-speed internet deployment and adoption efforts. Any
12 funding received for such purposes must be deposited in the high-speed
13 internet account created in section 5 of this act.

14 (4) The department may coordinate and assist local technology
15 planning teams in conducting a local needs assessment, identifying
16 potential funding sources, and developing and implementing a strategic
17 technology plan.

18 (5) The department may oversee benchmarking and tracking of
19 residential, business, nonprofit, and institutional high-speed internet
20 adoption at a statewide level.

21 (6) The department may pursue initiatives in local communities that
22 make high-speed internet more readily available, including but not
23 limited to:

24 (a) Expanding the community technology opportunity program created
25 in chapter 28B.32 RCW;

26 (b) Establishing low-cost hardware and software programs aimed at
27 business and residential consumers, as well as users of community
28 technology centers and libraries;

29 (c) Supporting loan programs for small businesses in order to
30 enhance workforce training and business technology acquisition efforts;
31 and

32 (d) Pursuing other initiatives aimed at boosting economic
33 development.

34 (7) The department may adopt rules as necessary to carry out the
35 provisions in this section and sections 3 and 4 of this act.

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

1 The department is authorized to receive federal funds made
2 available for broadband or high-speed internet purposes according to
3 the provisions of the acts of congress making the funds available.
4 Funds must be expended in accordance with federal and state law and any
5 conditions contingent in the grant of those funds.

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

8 The department may adopt rules and policies as necessary to entitle
9 the state to participate in federal funding programs and opportunities
10 related to high-speed internet or broadband.

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

13 The high-speed internet account is created in the custody of the
14 state treasurer. All receipts made available to the account from
15 private and public sources must be deposited into the account.
16 Expenditures from the account may be used only for implementation of
17 the high-speed internet deployment and adoption strategy as provided in
18 sections 1 through 4 of this act. Only the director of the department
19 or the director's designee may authorize expenditures from the account.
20 The account is subject to allotment procedures under chapter 43.88 RCW,
21 but an appropriation is not required.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** If any part of this act is found to be in
23 conflict with federal requirements that are a prescribed condition to
24 the allocation of federal funds to the state, the conflicting part of
25 this act is inoperative solely to the extent of the conflict and with
26 respect to the agencies directly affected, and this finding does not
27 affect the operation of the remainder of this act in its application to
28 the agencies concerned. Rules adopted under this act must meet federal
29 requirements that are a necessary condition to the receipt of federal
30 funds by the state.

31 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 7.** RCW 43.105.350 (Request for information from
32 providers--Limitation) and 2008 c 262 s 3 are each repealed.

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