

HOUSE PRINCIPLES

Members are encouraged to evaluate proposed legislation in light of the following guiding principles of the House of Representatives

- Balance the state budget.
- Create a legal and regulatory environment that fosters economic growth and job creation.
- Lower the tax burden on families and businesses.
- Reverse or restrain the growth of government.
- Promote public safety.
- Promote educational accountability, excellence, and choice.
- Foster respect for the family and for innocent human life.
- Protect Florida's natural beauty.

FULL ANALYSIS

I. SUBSTANTIVE ANALYSIS

A. EFFECT OF PROPOSED CHANGES:

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 signed by President Obama on February 17, 2009, allocated \$7.2 billion for grant and loan programs to stimulate the development of broadband infrastructure and services. These federal funds will be administered by two federal agencies: the National Telecommunications and Information Administration in the Department of Commerce and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utility Service. The majority of these funds will be made available through a competitive process to qualifying government, nonprofit, and private-sector entities throughout the nation.

More than 25 states have developed advisory councils or similar authorities to develop a statewide coordinated effort for the deployment of broadband. At this time, Florida does not have a specific group or agency responsible for the facilitation of broadband deployment.

This bill provides the Department of Management Services the authority to work collaboratively with Enterprise Florida, Inc., state agencies, local governments, private businesses, and community organizations for mapping and deployment of broadband Internet services in the state. The bill will provide the department the ability to draw down federal funds and to receive gifts and donations individuals, foundations, and private organizations for this purpose.

Specifically, the Department of Management Services will:

- Conduct a needs assessment and map of broadband Internet services and facilities in the state;
- Create a strategic plan for the use of broadband in the state;
- Build and facilitate local technology planning teams with members that represent cross-sections of the community; and
- Encourage the use of broadband in rural, unserved, and underserved communities through grant programs that will assist state agencies and public-private partnerships.

Priority for grants will be provided to projects that:

- Provide access to broadband education, awareness, training, access, equipment, and support to libraries, schools, colleges and universities, health care providers, and community organizations.
- Provide service options that give consumers a choice of broadband service.
- Work toward establishing affordable and sustainable service in the state.
- Facilitate the development of applications, programs and services, including, telework, telemedicine, and e-learning, that increase the usage and demand for broadband services.

B. SECTION DIRECTORY:

Section 1: Provides legislative intent and authorization to the Department of Management Services to serve as the state coordinating agency for the mapping and deployment of broadband Internet services.

Section 2: Provides the act will take effect upon becoming law.

II. FISCAL ANALYSIS & ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

A. FISCAL IMPACT ON STATE GOVERNMENT:

1. Revenues:

This bill creates the framework to facilitate a coordinated state broadband deployment grant program in the Department of Management Services. The state may receive federal grant or loan funding through The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

2. Expenditures:

None.

B. FISCAL IMPACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

1. Revenues:

None.

2. Expenditures:

None.

C. DIRECT ECONOMIC IMPACT ON PRIVATE SECTOR:

The private sector may partner with the state to receive grants to assist with the development of broadband Internet services in the state.

D. FISCAL COMMENTS:

None.

III. COMMENTS

A. CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES:

1. Applicability of Municipality/County Mandates Provision:

This bill does not require counties or municipalities to spend funds or to take an action requiring the expenditure of funds. This bill does not reduce the percentage of a state tax shared with counties or municipalities. This bill does not reduce the authority that municipalities have to raise revenue.

2. Other:

B. RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY:

None.

C. DRAFTING ISSUES OR OTHER COMMENTS:

None.

IV. AMENDMENTS/COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE CHANGES