

STATE OF NEW YORK

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IN ASSEMBLY

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Introduced by M. of A. RYAN, BURKE, WALLACE, SMITH, D'URSO, PHEFFER AMATO, FRONTUS, LAVINE, BRAUNSTEIN, M. G. MILLER, SIMOTAS, WEPRIN, RAMOS, JEAN-PIERRE, REYES, SOLAGES, STERN, OTIS, STECK, ORTIZ, SAYEGH, DeSTEFANO, GARBARINO, MOSLEY, L. ROSENTHAL, DINOWITZ, BLAKE, GOTTFRIED, ROZIC, CARROLL, KIM, CRUZ, RICHARDSON, EPSTEIN, QUART, BUCHWALD, STIRPE, NIOU, LENTOL, SANTABARBARA, McMAHON, TAYLOR, GLICK, BARNWELL, SEAWRIGHT, DiPIETRO, DE LA ROSA, BENEDETTO, B. MILLER, NORRIS, JOYNER, JACOBSON, ABINANTI -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. ARROYO, CROUCH, ENGLEBRIGHT, GALEF, NOLAN, THIELE -- read once and referred to the Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- recommitted to the Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions in accordance with Assembly Rule 3, sec. 2 -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the public service law, in relation to the public service commission reviewing broadband and fiber optic services within the state

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

1 Section 1. Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as
2 the "comprehensive broadband connectivity act".
3 § 2. Legislative findings. The legislature hereby finds and declares
4 that access to high-speed internet is a fundamental right and it is
5 incumbent upon the State to ensure provision of this right to every New
6 Yorker. Yet many areas of the state do not have access to adequate
7 broadband services. The lack of competition in the telecommunications
8 marketplace has been a cause of deteriorated service for customers and
9 users of regulated telephonic and telecommunications services. The lack
10 of access to adequate internet services for schools, businesses, fami-
11 lies, and healthcare facilities has had substantial negative economic

EXPLANATION--Matter in italics (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[-] is old law to be omitted.

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1 and social impact particularly in rural and other underserved and
2 unserved communities.

3 § 3. The public service law is amended by adding a new section 224-c
4 to read as follows:

5 § 224-c. Broadband and fiber optic services. 1. For the purposes of
6 this section:

7 (a) The term "served" means any location with at least two internet
8 service providers and at least one such provider offers high-speed
9 internet service.

10 (b) The term "underserved" means any location which has fewer than two
11 internet service providers, or has internet speeds of at least 25 mega-
12 bits per second (mbps) download but less than 100 mbps download avail-
13 able.

14 (c) The term "unserved" means any location which has no fixed wireless
15 service or wired service with speeds of 25 mbps download or less avail-
16 able.

17 (d) The term "high-speed internet service" means internet service of
18 at least 100 mbps download and at least 10 mbps upload.

19 (e) The term "broadband service" shall mean a mass-market retail
20 service that provides the capability to transmit data to and receive
21 data from all or substantially all internet endpoints, including any
22 capabilities that are incidental to and enable the operation of the
23 communications service, but shall not include dial-up service.

24 (f) The term "location" shall mean a geographic area smaller than a
25 census tract.

26 2. The commission shall study the availability, affordability and
27 reliability of high-speed internet and broadband services in New York
28 state. The commission shall:

29 (a) assess the efficacy and make recommendations regarding levels of
30 competition among providers, as well as any regulatory and statutory
31 barriers, in order to deliver comprehensive statewide access to high-
32 speed internet;

33 (b) review available technology to identify solutions that best
34 support high-speed internet service in underserved or unserved areas,
35 and make recommendations on ensuring deployment of such technology in
36 underserved and unserved areas;

37 (c) identify instances where local franchise agreements and legal
38 settlements related to internet access have not been complied with;

39 (d) identify locations where insufficient access to high-speed inter-
40 net and/or broadband service, and/or persistent digital divide, is caus-
41 ing negative social or economic impact on the community;

42 (e) identify locations where the commission believes fiber optic
43 service is necessary for the successful implementation of commission's
44 policies on competition, affordability, and adequate service;

45 (f) examine any other telecommunications deficiencies affecting broad-
46 band service it deems necessary to further the economic and social goals
47 of the state; and

48 (g) produce, maintain and publish on its website, a detailed internet
49 access map of the state, indicating access to internet service by
50 location. Such map shall include, but not be limited to, the following
51 information for each location:

52 (i) download and upload speeds advertised and experienced;

53 (ii) the consistency and reliability of download and upload speeds
54 including latency;

1 (iii) the types of internet service and technologies available includ-
2 ing but not limited to dial-up, broadband, wireless, fiber, coax, or
3 satellite;

4 (iv) the number of internet service providers available, the price of
5 internet service available; and

6 (v) any other factors the commission may deem relevant.

7 3. The commission shall submit a report of its findings and recommen-
8 dations from the study required in subdivision two of this section, to
9 the governor, the temporary president of the senate and the speaker of
10 the assembly no later than one year after the effective date of this
11 section, and an updated report annually thereafter. Such report shall
12 include, but not be limited to, the following:

13 (a) the overall number of residences with access to high-speed inter-
14 net identifying which areas are served, unserved and underserved;

15 (b) a regional survey of internet service prices in comparison to
16 county-level median income;

17 (c) an analysis of the affordability of high-speed internet service in
18 New York state;

19 (d) any relevant usage statistics;

20 (e) any other metrics or analyses the commission deems necessary in
21 order to assess the availability, affordability and reliability of
22 internet service in New York state; and

23 (f) the map maintained pursuant to paragraph (g) of subdivision two of
24 this section.

25 4. The commission shall hold at least four regional public hearings
26 within one year of the effective date of this section, to solicit input
27 from the public and other stakeholders including but not limited to
28 internet service providers, telecommunications concerns, labor organiza-
29 tions, public safety organizations, healthcare, education, agricultural
30 and other businesses or organizations.

31 5. The commission shall work with internet service providers in the
32 state to prioritize access to broadband and fiber optic services for the
33 communities determined to have experienced negative economic and social
34 impacts due to absent, insufficient, or inadequate broadband or fiber
35 optic service pursuant to subdivision one of this section.

36 6. To effectuate the purposes of this section, the commission may
37 request and shall receive from any department, division, board, bureau,
38 commission or other agency of the state or any state public authority
39 such assistance, information and data as will enable the commission to
40 carry out its powers and duties under this section.

41 § 4. The article heading of article 11 of the public service law, as
42 added by chapter 83 of the laws of 1995, is amended to read as follows:

43 PROVISIONS RELATING TO CABLE TELEVISION COMPANIES

44 AND INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS

45 § 5. Section 212 of the public service law is amended by adding a new
46 subdivision 15 to read as follows:

47 15. "Internet service provider" shall mean any person, business or
48 organization qualified to do business in this state that provides indi-
49 viduals, corporations, or other entities with the ability to connect to
50 the internet.

51 § 6. This act shall take effect on the thirtieth day after it shall
52 have become a law.