

STATE OF NEW YORK

10414

IN SENATE

May 15, 2026

Introduced by Sen. GONZALEZ -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Energy and Telecommunications

AN ACT to amend the public service law, in relation to Internet neutrality; and to amend the state finance law, the general municipal law, the public authorities law and the economic development law, in relation to requiring that procurement contracts require compliance with Internet neutrality requirements

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

- 1 Section 1. Legislative intent. The legislature finds and declares the
2 following:
- 3 (a) This act is adopted pursuant to the police power inherent in the
4 state of New York to protect and promote the safety, life, public
5 health, public convenience, general prosperity, and well-being of society,
6 and the welfare of the state's population and economy, that are
7 increasingly dependent on an open and neutral Internet.
- 8 (b) Almost every sector of New York's economy, democracy, and society
9 is dependent on the open and neutral Internet that supports vital functions
10 regulated under the police power of the state, including, but not
11 limited to, each of the following:
- 12 (1) police and emergency services;
13 (2) health and safety services and infrastructure;
14 (3) utility services and infrastructure;
15 (4) transportation infrastructure and services, and the expansion of
16 zero- and low-emission transportation options;
17 (5) government services, voting, and democratic decision making processes;
18 (6) education;
19 (7) business and economic activity;
20 (8) environmental monitoring and protection, and achievement of state
21 environmental goals; and
22 (9) land use regulation.
23

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

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1 § 2. The public service law is amended by adding a new article 12 to
2 read as follows:

3 ARTICLE 12

4 PROVISIONS RELATING TO INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS

5 Section 250. Definitions.

6 251. Internet neutrality.

7 252. Broadband Internet access evaluation.

8 253. Infrastructure awards.

9 254. Enforcement.

10 255. Application.

11 § 250. Definitions. For purposes of this article, the following defi-
12 nitions apply:

13 1. "Application-agnostic" means not differentiating on the basis of
14 source, destination, Internet content, application, service, or device,
15 or class of Internet content, application, service, or device.

16 2. "Application-specific differential pricing" means charging differ-
17 ent prices for Internet traffic to customers on the basis of Internet
18 content, application, service, or device, or class of Internet content,
19 application, service, or device, but does not include zero-rating.

20 3. "Broadband Internet access service" means a mass-market retail
21 service by wire or radio provided to customers in New York that provides
22 the capability to transmit data to, and receive data from, all or
23 substantially all Internet endpoints, including any capabilities that
24 are incidental to and enable the operation of the communications
25 service, but excluding dial-up Internet access service. "Broadband
26 Internet access service" also encompasses any service provided to
27 customers in New York that provides a functional equivalent of that
28 service or that is used to evade the protections set forth in this chap-
29 ter.

30 4. "Class of Internet content, application, service, or device" means
31 Internet content, or a group of Internet applications, services, or
32 devices, sharing a common characteristic, including, but not limited to,
33 sharing the same source or destination, belonging to the same type of
34 content, application, service, or device, using the same application- or
35 transport-layer protocol, or having similar technical characteristics,
36 including, but not limited to, the size, sequencing, or timing of pack-
37 ets, or sensitivity to delay.

38 5. "Content, applications, or services" means all Internet traffic
39 transmitted to or from end users of a broadband Internet access service,
40 including traffic that may not fit clearly into any of these categories.

41 6. "Edge provider" means any individual or entity that provides any
42 content, application, or service over the Internet, and any individual
43 or entity that provides a device used for accessing any content, appli-
44 cation, or service over the Internet.

45 7. "End user" means any individual or entity that uses a broadband
46 Internet access service.

47 8. "Internet service provider" or "ISP" means a business that provides
48 broadband Internet access service to an individual, corporation, govern-
49 ment, or other customer in New York.

50 9. "ISP traffic exchange" means the exchange of Internet traffic
51 destined for, or originating from, an Internet service provider's end
52 users between the Internet service provider's network and another indi-
53 vidual or entity, including, but not limited to, an edge provider,
54 content delivery network, or other network operator.

55 10. "Mass market" means a service marketed and sold on a standardized
56 basis to residential customers, small businesses, and other end-use

1 customers, including, but not limited to, schools, institutions of high-
2 er learning, and libraries. The term also includes broadband Internet
3 access services purchased with support of the E-rate and Rural Health
4 program and similar programs at the federal and state level, regardless
5 of whether they are customized or individually negotiated, as well as
6 any broadband Internet access service offered using networks supported
7 by the Connect America Fund or similar programs at the federal and state
8 level.

9 11. "Network management practice" means a practice that has a primari-
10 ly technical network management justification, but does not include
11 other business practices.

12 12. "Reasonable network management practice" means a network manage-
13 ment practice that is primarily used for, and tailored to, achieving a
14 legitimate network management purpose, taking into account the partic-
15 ular network architecture and technology of the broadband Internet
16 access service, and that is as application-agnostic as possible.

17 13. "Third-party paid prioritization" means the management of an
18 Internet service provider's network to directly or indirectly favor some
19 traffic over other traffic, including through the use of techniques such
20 as traffic shaping, prioritization, resource reservation, or other forms
21 of preferential traffic management, either: (a) in exchange for consid-
22 eration, monetary or otherwise, from a third party; or (b) to benefit an
23 affiliated entity.

24 14. "Zero-rating" means exempting some Internet traffic from a custom-
25 er's data limitation.

26 § 251. Internet neutrality. 1. It shall be unlawful for an Internet
27 service provider, insofar as the provider is engaged in providing broad-
28 band Internet access service, to engage in any of the following activi-
29 ties:

30 (a) Blocking lawful content, applications, services, or non-harmful
31 devices, subject to reasonable network management practices.

32 (b) Speeding up, slowing down, altering, restricting, interfering
33 with, or otherwise directly or indirectly favoring, disadvantaging, or
34 discriminating between lawful Internet traffic on the basis of source,
35 destination, Internet content, application, or service, or use of a
36 non-harmful device, or of class of Internet content, application,
37 service, or non-harmful device, subject to reasonable network management
38 practices.

39 (c) Requiring consideration from edge providers, monetary or other-
40 wise, in exchange for access to the Internet service provider's end
41 users, including, but not limited to, requiring consideration for either
42 of the following:

43 (i) transmitting Internet traffic to and from the Internet service
44 provider's end users.

45 (ii) refraining from the activities prohibited in paragraphs (a) and
46 (b) of this subdivision.

47 (d) Engaging in third-party paid prioritization.

48 (e) Engaging in application-specific differential pricing or zero-rat-
49 ing in exchange for consideration, monetary or otherwise, by third
50 parties.

51 (f) Zero-rating some Internet content, applications, services, or
52 devices in a category of Internet content, applications, services, or
53 devices, but not the entire category.

54 (g) Engaging in application-specific differential pricing.

55 (h) Unreasonably interfering with, or unreasonably disadvantaging,
56 either an end user's ability to select, access, and use broadband Inter-

1 net access service or lawful Internet content, applications, services,
2 or devices of the end user's choice, or an edge provider's ability to
3 make lawful content, applications, services, or devices available to an
4 end user, subject to reasonable network management practices.

5 (i) Engaging in practices with respect to, related to, or in
6 connection with, ISP traffic exchange that have the purpose or effect of
7 circumventing or undermining the effectiveness of this section.

8 (j) Engaging in deceptive or misleading marketing practices that
9 misrepresent the treatment of Internet traffic, content, applications,
10 services, or devices by the Internet service provider, or that misrepre-
11 sent the performance characteristics or commercial terms of the broad-
12 band Internet access service to its customers.

13 (k) Advertising, offering for sale, or selling broadband Internet
14 access service without prominently disclosing with specificity all
15 aspects of the service advertised, offered for sale, or sold.

16 (l) Failing to publicly disclose accurate information regarding the
17 network management practices, performance, and commercial terms of its
18 broadband Internet access services sufficient for consumers to make
19 informed choices regarding use of those services and for content, appli-
20 cation, service, and device providers to develop, market, and maintain
21 Internet offerings.

22 (m) Offering or providing services other than broadband Internet
23 access service that are delivered over the same last-mile connection as
24 the broadband Internet access service, if those services satisfy any of
25 the following conditions:

26 (i) they are marketed, provide, or can be used as a functional equiv-
27 alent of broadband Internet access service.

28 (ii) they have the purpose or effect of circumventing or undermining
29 the effectiveness of this section.

30 (iii) they negatively affect the performance of broadband Internet
31 access service.

32 2. (a) An Internet service provider may offer different types of techni-
33 cal treatment to end users as part of its broadband Internet access
34 service, without violating the provisions of subdivision one of this
35 section, if all of the following conditions exist:

36 (i) The different types of technical treatment are equally available
37 to all Internet content, applications, services, and devices, and all
38 classes of Internet content, applications, services, and devices, and
39 the Internet service provider does not discriminate in the provision of
40 the different types of technical treatment on the basis of Internet
41 content, application, service, or device, or class of Internet content,
42 application, service, or device.

43 (ii) The Internet service provider's end users are able to choose
44 whether, when, and for which Internet content, applications, services,
45 or devices, or classes of Internet content, applications, services, or
46 devices, to use each type of technical treatment.

47 (iii) The Internet service provider charges only its own broadband
48 Internet access service customers for the use of the different types of
49 technical treatment.

50 (b) Any Internet service provider offering different types of techni-
51 cal treatment pursuant to this subdivision shall notify the commission
52 and provide the commission with a specimen of any service contract that
53 it offers to customers in New York.

54 (c) If an Internet service provider offers different types of techni-
55 cal treatment pursuant to this subdivision, the commission shall monitor
56 the quality of the basic default service and establish minimum quality

1 requirements if the offering of the different types of technical treat-
2 ment degrades the quality of the basic default service.

3 3. An Internet service provider may zero-rate Internet traffic in
4 application-agnostic ways, without violating the provisions of subdivi-
5 sion one of this section, provided that no consideration, monetary or
6 otherwise, is provided by any third party in exchange for the provider's
7 decision to zero-rate or to not zero-rate traffic.

8 § 252. Broadband Internet access evaluation. The commission, in
9 consultation with the power authority of the state of New York, the NYS
10 Broadband Program Office and electrical corporations, shall evaluate the
11 role broadband Internet access and tools, especially as they relate to
12 private consumers, will play in the future operation of the state's
13 power grid. The evaluation should consider at least the following:

14 1. the reliance of electrical corporations on consumer broadband
15 services to manage energy resources;

16 2. the impact that paid prioritization, throttling, and blocking in
17 consumer broadband Internet service would have on resource management
18 and grid reliability; and

19 3. the future cost to the state and agencies if state agencies need to
20 enter into long-term paid prioritization contracts if net neutrality
21 principles are no longer in place.

22 § 253. Infrastructure awards. 1. An award of moneys by the NYS Broad-
23 band Program Office for the building of infrastructure for broadband
24 communications shall require the awardee to prevent any Internet service
25 provider that provides broadband Internet access service utilizing that
26 infrastructure from violating the provisions of section two hundred
27 fifty-one of this article.

28 2. An award of moneys by the NYS Broadband Program Office for access
29 to the Internet shall prohibit any Internet service provider that
30 receives those moneys from violating the provisions of section two
31 hundred fifty-one of this article.

32 § 254. Enforcement. In addition to the authority granted to the
33 commission pursuant to this chapter, the attorney general may enforce
34 the provisions of this article to the extent permitted under section
35 sixty-three of the executive law.

36 § 255. Application. Nothing in this article supersedes or limits any
37 obligation, authorization, or ability of an Internet service provider to
38 address the needs of emergency communications or law enforcement, public
39 safety, or national security authorities.

40 § 3. Section 219 of the public service law is amended by adding a new
41 subdivision 4 to read as follows:

42 4. (a) For purposes of this section, "application-agnostic," "applica-
43 tion-specific differential pricing," "broadband Internet access
44 service," "class of Internet content, application, service, or device,"
45 "content, applications, or services," "edge provider," "end user,"
46 "Internet service provider," "ISP," "ISP traffic exchange," "mass
47 market," "network management practice," "reasonable network management
48 practice," "third-party paid prioritization," and "zero-rating" have the
49 same meanings as defined in section two hundred fifty of this chapter.

50 (b) A cable operator or video service provider that has been granted a
51 franchise, and any affiliate, insofar as the provider is engaged in
52 providing broadband Internet access service, shall not engage in any of
53 the following activities:

54 (i) Blocking lawful content, applications, services, or non-harmful
55 devices, subject to reasonable network management practices.

1 (ii) Speeding up, slowing down, altering, restricting, interfering
2 with, or otherwise directly or indirectly favoring, disadvantaging, or
3 discriminating between lawful Internet traffic on the basis of source,
4 destination, Internet content, application, or service, or use of a
5 non-harmful device, or of class of Internet content, application,
6 service, or non-harmful device, subject to reasonable network management
7 practices.

8 (iii) Requiring consideration from edge providers, monetary or other-
9 wise, in exchange for access to the Internet service provider's end
10 users, including, but not limited to, requiring consideration for either
11 of the following:

12 (A) transmitting Internet traffic to and from the Internet service
13 provider's end users; and

14 (B) refraining from the activities prohibited in subparagraphs (i) and
15 (ii) of this paragraph.

16 (iv) Engaging in third-party paid prioritization.

17 (v) Engaging in application-specific differential pricing or zero-rat-
18 ing in exchange for consideration, monetary or otherwise, by third
19 parties.

20 (vi) Zero-rating some Internet content, applications, services, or
21 devices in a category of Internet content, applications, services, or
22 devices, but not the entire category.

23 (vii) Engaging in application-specific differential pricing.

24 (viii) Unreasonably interfering with, or unreasonably disadvantaging,
25 either an end user's ability to select, access, and use broadband Inter-
26 net access service or lawful Internet content, applications, services,
27 or devices of the end user's choice, or an edge provider's ability to
28 make lawful content, applications, services, or devices available to an
29 end user, subject to reasonable network management practices.

30 (ix) Engaging in practices with respect to, related to, or in
31 connection with, ISP traffic exchange that have the purpose or effect of
32 circumventing or undermining the effectiveness of this subdivision.

33 (x) Engaging in deceptive or misleading marketing practices that
34 misrepresent the treatment of Internet traffic, content, applications,
35 services, or devices by the Internet service provider, or that misrepre-
36 sent the performance characteristics or commercial terms of the broad-
37 band Internet access service to its customers.

38 (xi) Advertising, offering for sale, or selling broadband Internet
39 access service without prominently disclosing with specificity all
40 aspects of the service advertised, offered for sale, or sold.

41 (xii) Failing to publicly disclose accurate information regarding the
42 network management practices, performance, and commercial terms of its
43 broadband Internet access services sufficient for consumers to make
44 informed choices regarding use of those services and for content, appli-
45 cation, service, and device providers to develop, market, and maintain
46 Internet offerings.

47 (xiii) Offering or providing services other than broadband Internet
48 access services that are delivered over the same last-mile connection as
49 the broadband Internet access service, if those services satisfy any of
50 the following conditions:

51 (A) they are marketed, provide, or can be used as a functional equiv-
52 alent of broadband Internet access service; or

53 (B) they have the purpose or effect of circumventing or undermining
54 the effectiveness of this section; or

55 (C) they negatively affect the performance of broadband Internet
56 access service.

1 (c) (i) An Internet service provider may offer different types of
2 technical treatment to end users as part of its broadband Internet
3 access service if it meets the conditions specified in paragraph (a) of
4 subdivision two of section two hundred fifty-one of this chapter.

5 (ii) An Internet service provider may zero-rate Internet traffic in
6 application-agnostic ways, provided that no consideration, monetary or
7 otherwise, is provided by any third party in exchange for the provider's
8 decision to zero-rate or to not zero-rate traffic.

9 (d) In addition to the authority granted the commission pursuant to
10 this chapter, the attorney general may enforce the provisions of this
11 article to the extent permitted under section sixty-three of the execu-
12 tive law.

13 § 4. Section 119-a of the public service law is amended by adding a
14 new subdivision 6 to read as follows:

15 6. No permission shall be granted to a cable television or Internet
16 service provider for attachments on utility poles as provided in this
17 section unless such Internet service provider is in compliance with the
18 provisions of section two hundred fifty-one of this chapter.

19 § 5. Section 165 of the state finance law is amended by adding a new
20 subdivision 10 to read as follows:

21 10. Internet neutrality. a. For purposes of this subdivision:

22 (i) "broadband Internet access service," "Internet service provider,"
23 "network management practice," and "reasonable network management prac-
24 tice" shall have the same meanings as defined in section two hundred
25 fifty of the public service law; and

26 (ii) "the state" includes the state and any governmental agency or
27 political subdivision or public benefit corporation of the state.

28 b. (i) The state shall not purchase any fixed or mobile broadband
29 Internet access services from an Internet service provider that is in
30 violation of the provisions of section two hundred fifty-one of the
31 public service law.

32 (ii) The state shall not provide funding for the purchase of any fixed
33 or mobile broadband Internet access services from an Internet service
34 provider that is in violation of the provisions of section two hundred
35 fifty-one of the public service law.

36 c. (i) Every contract between the state and an Internet service
37 provider for broadband Internet access service shall require that the
38 service be rendered consistent with the requirements of section two
39 hundred fifty-one of the public service law.

40 (ii) If, after execution of a contract for broadband Internet access
41 service the state determines that the Internet service provider has
42 violated the provisions of section two hundred fifty-one of the public
43 service law in providing service to the state, the state may declare the
44 contract void from the time it was entered into and require repayment of
45 any payments made to the Internet service provider pursuant to the
46 contract. The remedies available pursuant to this section are in addi-
47 tion to any remedy available pursuant to article twenty-two-A of the
48 general business law.

49 d. It shall not be a violation of this article for the state to
50 purchase or fund fixed or mobile broadband Internet access services in a
51 geographical area where Internet access services are only available from
52 a single broadband Internet access service provider.

53 e. An Internet service provider that provides fixed or mobile broad-
54 band Internet access service purchased or funded by the state shall
55 publicly disclose accurate information regarding the network management
56 practices, performance, and commercial terms of its broadband Internet

1 access service that is sufficient to enable end users of those purchased
2 or funded services, including the state, to fully and accurately ascer-
3 tain if the service is conducted in a lawful manner pursuant to the
4 provisions of section two hundred fifty-one of the public service law.

5 § 6. The general municipal law is amended by adding a new section
6 104-e to read as follows:

7 § 104-e. Internet neutrality. 1. For purposes of this section, "broad-
8 band Internet access service," "Internet service provider," "network
9 management practice," and "reasonable network management practice" shall
10 have the same meanings as defined in section two hundred fifty of the
11 public service law.

12 2. a. A municipal corporation shall not purchase any fixed or mobile
13 broadband Internet access services from an Internet service provider
14 that is in violation of the provisions of section two hundred fifty-one
15 of the public service law.

16 b. A municipal corporation shall not provide funding for the purchase
17 of any fixed or mobile broadband Internet access services from an Inter-
18 net service provider that is in violation of the provisions of section
19 two hundred fifty-one of the public service law.

20 3. a. Every contract between a municipal corporation and an Internet
21 service provider for broadband Internet access service shall require
22 that the service be rendered consistent with the requirements of section
23 two hundred fifty-one of the public service law.

24 b. If, after execution of a contract for broadband Internet access
25 service, a municipal corporation determines that the Internet service
26 provider has violated the provisions of section two hundred fifty-one of
27 the public service law in providing service to the municipal corpo-
28 ration, the municipal corporation may declare the contract void from the
29 time it was entered into and require repayment of any payments made to
30 the Internet service provider pursuant to the contract. The remedies
31 available pursuant to this section are in addition to any remedy avail-
32 able pursuant to article twenty-two-A of the general business law.

33 4. It shall not be a violation of this article for a municipal corpo-
34 ration to purchase or fund fixed or mobile broadband Internet access
35 services in a geographical area where Internet access services are only
36 available from a single broadband Internet access service provider.

37 5. An Internet service provider that provides fixed or mobile broad-
38 band Internet access service purchased or funded by a municipal corpo-
39 ration shall publicly disclose accurate information regarding the
40 network management practices, performance, and commercial terms of its
41 broadband Internet access service that is sufficient to enable end users
42 of those purchased or funded services, including a municipal corpo-
43 ration, to fully and accurately ascertain if the service is conducted in
44 a lawful manner pursuant to the provisions of section two hundred
45 fifty-one of the public service law.

46 § 7. Subdivision 3 of section 2879 of the public authorities law is
47 amended by adding a new paragraph (n-1) to read as follows:

48 (n-1) Requirements to conduct procurements in a manner that complies
49 with the provisions of section two hundred fifty-one of the public
50 service law.

51 § 8. Section 143 of the economic development law is amended by adding
52 a new subdivision 6 to read as follows:

53 6. Each agency shall conduct procurements in a manner that complies
54 with the provisions of section two hundred fifty-one of the public
55 service law.

1 § 9. Severability. If any provision of this act, or the application
2 thereof to any person or circumstances, is held invalid or unconstitu-
3 tional, that invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect other
4 provisions or applications of this act that can be given effect without
5 the invalid or unconstitutional provision or application, and to this
6 end the provisions of this act are severable.

7 § 10. This act shall take effect on the sixtieth day after it shall
8 have become a law. Effective immediately, the addition, amendment
9 and/or repeal of any rule or regulation necessary for the implementation
10 of this act on its effective date are authorized to be made and
11 completed on or before such effective date.