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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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**HOUSE BILL**

**No. 1490** Session of  
2007

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INTRODUCED BY EACHUS, DALEY, HARKINS, M. O'BRIEN, PASHINSKI,  
BELFANTI, GEORGE, JOSEPHS, LEVDANSKY, HORNAMAN, KULA,  
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BRENNAN, HESS, MAHONEY, GALLOWAY, GERGELY, SWANGER, LEACH,  
WAGNER, CAPPELLI, J. WHITE, GIBBONS AND PRESTON, JULY 9, 2007

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SENATOR WONDERLING, COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY, IN SENATE, AS  
AMENDED, SEPTEMBER 18, 2008

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AN ACT

1 Relating to broadband deployment, mapping and availability.

2 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
3 hereby enacts as follows:

4 Section 1. Short title.

5 This act shall be known and may be cited as the Broadband  
6 Deployment, Mapping and Availability Act.

7 Section 2. Declaration of policy.

8 The following is declared to be the policy of the General  
9 Assembly:

10 (1) Broadband availability is a critical factor of  
11 economic development to stimulate commerce and increase job  
12 creation and retention in this Commonwealth.

13 (2) High-speed Internet access, or broadband, is  
14 essential infrastructure that has been proven to stimulate  
15 economic development, create jobs and increase property

1 values and tax receipts.

2 (3) The deployment and adoption of broadband technology  
3 has resulted in enhanced economic development and public  
4 safety, improved health care and educational opportunities  
5 and a better quality of life for all Pennsylvanians.

6 (4) A Statewide broadband and advanced service inventory  
7 established in 66 Pa.C.S. § 3014(m) (relating to network  
8 modernization plans) is a vital building block to a more  
9 informed broadband policy.

10 (5) Improving data collection and mapping of the  
11 deployment and adoption of broadband and advanced services  
12 will assist in identifying any underserved areas and  
13 utilizing existing resources to trigger the deployment of  
14 broadband and advanced services in such areas.

15 (6) The General Assembly recognizes and encourages  
16 complementary State efforts to improve the quality and  
17 usefulness of broadband and advanced service data collected  
18 at the Department of Community and Economic Development as  
19 required under 66 Pa.C.S. Ch. 30 (relating to alternative  
20 form of regulation of telecommunications services).

21 (7) The General Assembly continues to encourage and  
22 support the established partnership between public and  
23 private sectors in the universal deployment of broadband  
24 services as mandated under 66 Pa.C.S. § 3014(c) for the  
25 residents and businesses of this Commonwealth.

26 Section 3. Mapping and report.

27 The Department of Community and Economic Development shall  
28 work collaboratively with alternative service providers,  
29 advanced service providers, broadband service providers and  
30 information technology companies, as mandated under 66 Pa.C.S. §

1 3014(m) (relating to network modernization plans) in order to:

2 (1) Maintain and update the Commonwealth's broadband and  
3 advanced service inventory map on its Internet website no  
4 less than on a monthly basis to:

5 (i) identify broadband and advanced service  
6 penetration levels through a method of geographic  
7 information system mapping of service availability;

8 (ii) utilize existing State programs to aggregate  
9 demand for the increased deployment of ~~high-speed~~ ←  
10 broadband and advanced service in any underserved areas;  
11 and

12 (iii) provide a baseline and ongoing assessment of  
13 Statewide broadband and advanced service deployment in  
14 terms of total households with ~~high-speed~~ ←  
15 availability.

16 (2) Upon direction by and consultation with the  
17 Department of Community and Economic Development, local  
18 development districts, as defined under 66 Pa.C.S. § 3012  
19 (relating to definitions) shall be authorized to establish e-  
20 community teams to develop proposals for achieving greater  
21 use of technology in local communities and to increase the  
22 deployment of broadband and advanced services in ~~any~~ ←  
23 underserved communities. The e-community teams shall include  
24 providers of broadband and advanced services, economic  
25 development ~~organizations,~~ AND labor organizations ~~and,~~ ←  
26 TECHNOLOGY providers ~~of technology,~~ education and health care ←  
27 PROVIDERS and may also include other nongovernmental entities ←  
28 interested in advancing the goals of this act.

29 (3) Encourage programs to ~~improve~~ INCREASE computer ←  
30 ownership ~~and,~~ Internet access ~~for disenfranchised~~ AND ←

1 BROADBAND AVAILABILITY TO UNDERSERVED populations across this  
2 Commonwealth.

3 (4) Protect the confidentiality of trade secrets and  
4 other proprietary business information of alternative service  
5 providers, broadband service providers and information  
6 service providers.

7 (5) Issue an annual report to the General Assembly  
8 detailing its efforts to map broadband and advanced service  
9 availability throughout this Commonwealth, identify  
10 underserved areas and ~~assist in the increased~~ MAKE <—  
11 RECOMMENDATIONS ON WAYS TO INCREASE THE deployment of ~~high~~ <—  
12 ~~speed~~ broadband and advanced services under existing State  
13 programs.

14 Section 4. Contracting with a nonprofit.

15 The Department of Community and Economic Development may  
16 contract with a nonprofit organization to accomplish the  
17 objectives set forth under section 3(1) and (3), subject to the  
18 confidentiality requirements set forth under section 3(4).

19 Section 20. Effective date.

20 This act shall take effect immediately.