

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: No fiscal impact

Action: Be Adopted and Be Referred to the Committee on Rules by prior reference

Vote: 8 - 0 - 0

Yeas: Bailey, Bentz, Galizio, Gilliam, Holvey, Thatcher, Witt, Read

Nays: 0

Exc.: 0

Prepared By: Barbara Allen, Administrator

Meeting Dates: 3/19, 4/23

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Encourages the state to develop broadband policy to provide the foundation and direction for public and private sector decisions and actions to maintain Oregon's leadership and competitive position in broadband telecommunications to keep the state competitive with other states and ensure that all communities' broadband interests are met.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- General provisions of the federal broadband stimulus package including Oregon's share, qualifying purposes, specific allocations, grant criteria, role of the state in the process and deadlines for proposals
- Belief that a statewide broadband policy would drive and support critical infrastructure funding and policy decisions by individuals, corporations and governments to keep the state competitive in the global economy
- Crucial need to serve rural areas and to upgrade existing older broadband services
- Opportunities provided by broadband service for distance learning, job growth, economic development, health care, public safety, sustainability, carbon reduction, transportation and community development
- Technologies regarding wire-based and wireless networks and their affordability
- Importance of local governments' involvement in planning broadband development to ensure local needs and interests are met
- Deployment and funding options for broadband in unserved and underserved areas

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: No amendment.

BACKGROUND: This resolution is a result of the Oregon Telecommunications Coordinating Council's (ORTCC) 2008 study which was presented to the 2008 House Interim Committee on Government Accountability and Information Technology. The ORTCC, authorized by the legislature beginning in 2001 (SB 765), is a volunteer group charged with studying and recommending strategies for public-private telecom investments that will help state businesses compete in global markets and to study alternative approaches to providing coordinated statewide, regional and local telecommunication services in all areas of the state.