

HB 4155 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. McLane, Rep. Wilson

House Committee On Rules

Minority Report

Action Date: 02/20/18

Action: Do pass with different amendments and rescind subsequent referral to Ways and Means. (Printed A-Eng.)

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

Report Signers: Rep. Mike McLane, Rep. Carl Wilson

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Creates the Task Force on Net Neutrality (Task Force) to study the issue of network neutrality in the context of state contracts and report to the Joint Committee on Information Management and Technology by September 15, 2018. Specifies Task Force composition and rules. Repeals the Task Force on December 31, 2019. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Competition among Internet service providers
- History of net neutrality
- Innovation within the wireless and Internet economies in the recent past
- Arguments before the Federal Communications Commission

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Replaces measure.

BACKGROUND:

Prior to December of 2017, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) enforced "net neutrality" rules that required Internet service providers (ISPs) to treat all web traffic equally: ISPs were prohibited from blocking or slowing consumers' access to web content and from requiring websites to pay to have their content prioritized. On December 14, 2017, the FCC adopted the Restoring Internet Freedom Order, which repealed the previous 2015 Open Internet Order that served as the legal basis for the FCC to enforce net neutrality rules.

House Bill 4155-MRA creates the Task Force on Net Neutrality (Task Force) to study the issue of network neutrality in the context of state contracts and report to specified committees of the Legislative Assembly by September 15, 2018.