

By the Committee on Utilities & Communications and
Representative Rojas

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to communications networks and
3 information technologies; establishing a task
4 force in the Department of Management Services;
5 providing for representation; providing
6 responsibilities; providing for meetings of the
7 task force; providing for support staff for the
8 task force; requiring reports; providing for
9 the dissolution of the task force; providing an
10 appropriation; providing an effective date.

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12 WHEREAS, developments in communications networks and
13 information technologies have a profound effect on the lives
14 of Floridians and this state wishes to ensure that the maximum
15 benefits of such networks and technologies will be available
16 to Floridians, and

17 WHEREAS, it is the goal of this state to foster the
18 free-market development of the Internet, Internet II, and
19 other advanced information and communications networks and
20 technologies, to encourage information technology development
21 within Florida, to attract high technology industries to
22 locate in Florida, and to establish Florida as the favored
23 site for Internet and technology conferences, and

24 WHEREAS, it is the goal of this state to promote
25 teacher Internet preparedness and Internet literacy for K-12
26 students, to position Florida's technical schools, colleges,
27 and universities to advance the development of communications
28 and information technologies, and to train outstanding
29 teachers, workers, and leaders in those fields, and

30 WHEREAS, it is the goal of this state to ensure that
31 Florida's civil and criminal laws protect the security of

1 Floridians and not inhibit the development or use of
2 communication networks and information technologies and to
3 assure that law enforcement is adequately prepared and funded
4 to detect, prevent, and prosecute Internet crime, NOW,
5 THEREFORE:

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7 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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9 Section 1. (1) There is hereby created the
10 Information Service Technology Development Task Force which
11 shall be located within the Department of Management Services
12 for the purpose of developing policies that will benefit
13 residents of this state by fostering the free-market
14 development and beneficial use of advanced communications
15 networks and information technologies within this state. The
16 task force shall be composed of 34 members as follows:

17 (a) The Attorney General, the executive director of
18 the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Chancellor of
19 the State University System, the Commissioner of Education,
20 the executive director of the State Board of Community
21 Colleges, the director of the Office of Tourism, Trade, and
22 Economic Development, the executive director of the Department
23 of Revenue, a representative of the Florida Council of
24 American Electronics Association, a representative of the
25 Florida Internet Providers Association, a representative of
26 the United States Internet Council, the chair of the State
27 Technology Council, and the secretary of the Department of
28 Management Services.

29 (b) The President of the Senate shall appoint one
30 member from each of the following categories: a
31 facilities-based interexchange telecommunications company, a

1 wireless telecommunications company, an alternative local
2 exchange telecommunications company, an internet service
3 provider with more than one million customers, the
4 entertainment industry, a computer or telecommunications
5 manufacturing company, and one member of the Florida Senate.

6 (c) The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall
7 appoint one member from each of the following categories: a
8 cable television provider, a computer software company, the
9 banking industry, an internet search engine company, a local
10 exchange telecommunications company, the tourist industry, and
11 one member of the House of Representatives.

12 (d) The Governor shall name the chair, and appoint
13 members as follows: one college student who relies on the
14 Internet for personal or academic use and seven members as
15 determined by the Governor to appropriately represent
16 technology providers, manufacturers, retailers, and users.

17 (2) The task force shall exist for 2 years and shall
18 meet at least four times per year. Failure of a member to
19 participate in three consecutive meetings shall result in the
20 member's replacement by the Governor. The task force is
21 encouraged to implement electronic bulletin boards and other
22 means for the exchange of ideas throughout the year.

23 (3) The task force shall develop overarching
24 principles to guide state policy decisions with respect to the
25 free-market development and beneficial use of advanced
26 communications networks and information technologies, identify
27 factors that will affect whether these technologies will
28 flourish in Florida, and develop policy recommendations for
29 each factor.

30 (4) By February 14 of calendar years 2000 and 2001,
31 the task force shall submit a report to the Governor, the

1 President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of
2 Representatives outlining principles, policy recommendations,
3 and any suggested legislation. The task force may develop and
4 publish other documents throughout the year.

5 (5) The State Technology Office within the Department
6 of Management Services shall provide support staff for the
7 task force and promote public awareness of the development of
8 principles and policy recommendations by the task force. The
9 State University System shall assist the task force as
10 necessary.

11 (6) The task force shall dissolve effective July 1,
12 2001.

13 Section 2. The sum of \$375,100 is hereby appropriated
14 from the General Revenue Fund to the State Technology Office
15 in the Department of Management Services and four positions
16 are created in the department for the purpose of carrying out
17 the provisions of this act.

18 Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999.

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21 HOUSE SUMMARY

22
23 Creates the Information Service Technology Development
24 Task Force within the Department of Management Services
25 for the purpose of developing policies that will benefit
26 residents of this state by fostering free-market
27 development and beneficial use of advanced communications
28 networks and information technology within this state.
29 See bill for details.
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