

1 A bill to be entitled  
 2 An act relating to broadband Internet service; providing  
 3 legislative findings and intent; authorizing the  
 4 Department of Management Services to engage in certain  
 5 activities related to assessing the need for broadband  
 6 Internet service in the state, planning for such service,  
 7 and encouraging the statewide deployment of such service;  
 8 authorizing the department to apply for and accept certain  
 9 funds; providing an effective date.

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

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 13 Section 1. (1) The Legislature finds that broadband  
 14 Internet service is critical to the economic development of the  
 15 state and is beneficial for libraries, schools, colleges and  
 16 universities, health care providers, and community  
 17 organizations. The Legislature further finds that barriers exist  
 18 to the statewide deployment of broadband Internet service,  
 19 especially in rural communities. The Legislature therefore  
 20 intends to promote the efficient and effective deployment of  
 21 broadband Internet service throughout the state through a  
 22 coordinated statewide effort.

23 (2) The Department of Management Services is authorized to  
 24 work collaboratively with Enterprise Florida, Inc., state  
 25 agencies, local governments, private businesses, and community  
 26 organizations to:

27 (a) Conduct a needs assessment of broadband Internet  
 28 service in collaboration with telecommunications service

HB 7091

2009

29 providers, including, but not limited to, Internet service  
30 providers, to assess, create, and regularly update a geographic  
31 information system map at the census tract level of the  
32 privately owned high-speed Internet infrastructure in the state.  
33 The department may contract with an independent nongovernmental  
34 organization for the purpose of developing the needs assessment.

35 (b) Create a strategic plan with goals and strategies for  
36 increasing the use of broadband Internet service in the state.

37 (c) Build and facilitate local technology planning teams  
38 and partnerships with members representing cross-sections of the  
39 community, which may include, but are not limited to,  
40 representatives from the following organizations and industries:  
41 libraries, K-12 education, colleges and universities, local  
42 health care providers, private businesses, community  
43 organizations, economic development organizations, local  
44 governments, tourism, parks and recreation, and agriculture.

45 (d) Encourage the use of broadband Internet service,  
46 especially in the rural, unserved, and underserved communities  
47 of the state through grant programs that assist state agencies  
48 and public-private partnerships with effective strategies to  
49 facilitate the statewide deployment of broadband Internet  
50 service. For any grants to be awarded, priority must be given to  
51 projects that:

52 1. Provide access to broadband education, awareness,  
53 training, access, equipment, and support to libraries, schools,  
54 colleges and universities, health care providers, and community  
55 support organizations.

HB 7091

2009

56           2. Provide service options that give consumers a choice of  
57 more than one broadband Internet service provider.

58           3. Work toward establishing affordable and sustainable  
59 broadband Internet service in the state.

60           4. Facilitate the development of applications, programs,  
61 and services, including, but not limited to, telework,  
62 telemedicine, and e-learning to increase the usage of, and  
63 demand for, broadband Internet service in the state.

64           (3) The department may apply for and accept federal funds  
65 for purposes of this section as well as gifts and donations from  
66 individuals, foundations, and private organizations.

67           Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.