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S.F. No. 1918, 3rd Engrossment - 85th Legislative Session (2007-2008) Posted on Apr 16, 2008

A bill for an act

relating to telecommunications; creating the Ultra High-Speed Broadband Task Force.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. **ULTRA HIGH-SPEED BROADBAND GOAL TASK FORCE.**

Subdivision 1. Establishment; membership. (a) The governor shall convene an Ultra High-Speed Broadband Task Force to make recommendations to the governor and the legislature regarding the creation of a state ultra high-speed broadband goal and a plan to implement that goal.

(b) The Ultra High-Speed Broadband Task Force consists of:

(1) one member representing higher educational systems, one member representing regional public libraries, and one member representing K-12 institutions or consortia;

(2) one member representing health care institutions located in the metropolitan area, and one member representing health care institutions located in rural areas;

(3) three members appointed by the governor representing telephone companies, one of whom shall represent telephone companies with 50,000 or fewer subscribers located outside the metropolitan area;

(4) one member representing cable communications systems providers located in the metropolitan area, and one member representing cable communications systems providers located in rural areas;

(5) one member representing wireless service providers;

(6) one member representing metropolitan area Minnesota counties, and one member representing rural area Minnesota counties;

(7) two members representing Minnesota cities, including one member representing metropolitan area cities, and one member representing rural area Minnesota cities;

(8) four citizen-at-large members representing Internet users, equally divided between business and residential users;

(9) one member representing a labor organization representing communications workers;

(10) the commissioner of commerce or the commissioner's designee;

(11) the commissioner of employment and economic development or the commissioner's designee; and

(12) one representative from the Office of Enterprise Technology.

For the purposes of this paragraph, "metropolitan area" means the counties of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington, and "rural area" means an area outside of the metropolitan area.

(c) The governor shall appoint the members described in paragraph (b), clauses (1) to (9), and shall designate one of the citizen-at-large members to serve as chair of the task force who shall convene the first meeting after all members have been appointed.

(d) The Department of Commerce shall provide logistical and administrative support to the task force.

(e) By November 1, 2009, the task force shall submit a report to the governor and the chairs and ranking minority members of the senate and house committees with primary jurisdiction over telecommunications policy containing recommendations, including possible legislation, for the development of a comprehensive statewide plan designed to achieve a state ultra high-speed broadband goal that the task force considers appropriate. The report must include, at a minimum:

(1) identification of the level of broadband service, including connection speeds for sending and receiving data, that is reasonably needed by all citizens by 2015;

(2) a description of the policies and actions necessary to achieve the goal established in clause (1), including the elimination of obstacles to investment and the identification of areas in the state that currently lack infrastructure necessary to support broadband service;

(3) a description of the opportunities for the public and private sectors to cooperate to achieve the goal;

(4) an evaluation of strategies, financing methods, and financial incentives used in other states and countries to support the deployment of high-speed broadband;

(5) an evaluation and recommendation of the security, vulnerability, and redundancy actions necessary to ensure the reliability of high-speed broadband;

(6) an estimate of the costs of reaching the broadband goal, including capital costs, and identification of who will bear those costs;

(7) a description of economic development opportunities made possible by the wide dissemination of high-speed broadband; and

(8) an evaluation of how access to high-speed broadband can benefit educational institutions, healthcare institutions, community-based organizations, and government institutions.

Subd. 2. **Expiration.** This section expires March 1, 2010.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

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