

92123-1:n:05/02/2007:MCS/th LRS2007-2542

HR430
By Representatives Ford, Galliher and Bentley
RFD Rules
Rd 1 02-MAY-07

ESTABLISHING THE HOUSE INTERIM COMMITTEE TO STUDY BROADBAND INTERNET ACCESS.

WHEREAS, many state and local leaders, particularly business, economic, and education leaders have expressed concern over the increasing gap between citizens and institutions that have full access to broadband Internet availability and those who have limited access; and

WHEREAS, the digital divide restricts many thousands of Alabamians from experiencing the potential for a better life that can be provided by full deployment of broadband technology; and

WHEREAS, a meaningful broadband online presence would lead to improved utility for computer and Internet users in such areas as education, business and economic activity, citizen services provided by public entities, health care, agriculture, library services, tourism, and community-based services and organizations; and

WHEREAS, Alabama could benefit from a study of states having successful Internet access programs such as the State of Kentucky, a leader in developing full broadband Internet access through its proactive and model programs of "Prescription for Innovation," "Connect Kentucky," and "No Child Left Offline"; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That there is hereby established the House Interim Committee to Study Broadband Internet Access, with the goal of studying all aspects of how to provide enhanced broadband access to Alabama citizens, businesses, governmental entities, medical service programs and entities, and educational systems and institutions.

The committee shall be composed of the following members appointed by the Speaker of the Alabama House of Representatives:

- (1) Three members of the Alabama House of Representatives.
- (2) Two at-large members who are citizens of Alabama who have knowledge or experience in broadband Internet technology.

The membership of the committee shall be inclusive and reflect the racial, gender, geographic, urban and rural, and economic diversity of the state. The chair and vice chair of the committee shall be elected at the first meeting by the members of the committee, which shall be held at a time and on a date provided by the Speaker.

The committee shall report its study findings and suggestions to the Alabama House of Representatives on the fifth legislative day of the 2008 Regular Session, whereupon the committee shall stand dissolved and discharged of any further duties and liabilities.

Upon the request of the chair, the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall provide necessary clerical assistance for the work of the committee. At-large members shall serve without state compensation, but may be reimbursed for expenses related to attending committee meetings as provided by their respective employers. Each legislative member of the committee shall be entitled to his or her regular legislative compensation, his or her per diem, and travel expenses for each day he or she attends a meeting of the committee. Upon requisitions signed by the chair of the committee, these payments

shall be paid out of any funds appropriated to the use of the Legislature by means of warrants drawn by the Comptroller on the State Treasury. Notwithstanding the foregoing, no member shall receive additional legislative compensation or per diem when the Legislature is in session or if a member is being paid any other payments on the same dates for attendance on other state business. The total expenditures of the committee shall not exceed \$5,000.

Resolutions, Legislative

Legislative Committees

Legislature

Internet

Broadband Internet Access