

Senator Howard A. Stephenson proposes the following substitute bill:

UTAH BROADBAND FRIENDLY STATE - JOINT RESOLUTION

2014 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Howard A. Stephenson

House Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This joint resolution of the Legislature urges the Governor's Office of Economic Development and the Utah League of Cities and Towns to work with Utah's municipal leaders and private providers to help Utah become a fully "broadband friendly" state.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

▶ urges the Governor's Office of Economic Development and the Utah League of Cities and Towns to work with Utah's municipal leaders and private providers to develop a comprehensive plan to become a fully "broadband friendly" state; and

▶ urges the Governor's Office of Economic Development to work in concert with the Utah League of Cities and Towns and ~~to offer~~ private providers to offer support,

encouragement, and technical expertise to Utah's cities and towns in promoting the goal of broadband connectivity to every Utah home and business.

Special Clauses:

None

Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

WHEREAS, since its founding Utah has recognized and embraced the need to build

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26 today for the growth and prosperity of future generations;

27 WHEREAS, among the first acts of our pioneer forebears was the construction of
28 irrigation systems and roads and city grids;

29 WHEREAS, these early steps formed the foundation of the state to the present day and
30 reflected a commitment to place completion of vital infrastructure above comfort or
31 convenience and to sacrifice for the future good;

32 WHEREAS, the Legislature of the state of Utah recognizes that in the future all
33 advancement in every vital field of endeavor -- education, job creation, business, health care,
34 public safety, scientific research, and all forms of information -- will depend upon full digital
35 connectivity;

36 WHEREAS, the Legislature of the state of Utah recognizes the state's need to compete
37 in a world economy with human and natural resources and that broadband technology opens
38 doors to Utah students of all ages;

39 WHEREAS, Utah has developed a thriving high-tech sector, employing thousands and
40 contributing to the general prosperity of all;

41 WHEREAS, businesses looking to build, relocate, or invest in Utah will include in their
42 considerations the geographic and technological status of the state's digital infrastructure;

43 WHEREAS, Utah's cities and towns are the government entities able to encourage and
44 facilitate private sector expansion of broadband optic technology throughout the state;

45 WHEREAS, cities and towns are ideally positioned to expedite the private sector
46 deployment of broadband networks by streamlining permitting, facility siting, rights-of-way,
47 building codes, planning, pole availability, and other impediments to full construction;

48 WHEREAS, a city or town designation of "broadband deployed," "broadband ready," or
49 "broadband friendly" would be useful distinctions in recruiting and retaining businesses for
50 cities and towns;

51 WHEREAS, the Governor's Office of Economic Development is tasked with
52 encouraging the creation and development of economic expansion within Utah's borders and
53 recognizes fully the need for universal digital connectivity;

54 WHEREAS, the Utah League of Cities and Towns represents and assists Utah's cities
55 and towns as a whole on a host of issues; and

56 WHEREAS, the Utah League of Cities and Towns and the Governor's Office of

57 Economic Development are willing to coordinate efforts to encourage "broadband friendly"
58 communities throughout Utah and to work in concert with Utah's cities and towns and private
59 providers:

60 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah
61 urges the Governor's Office of Economic Development and the Utah League of Cities and
62 Towns to work with Utah's city and town leaders and private providers to develop a
63 comprehensive plan to become a fully "broadband friendly" state.

64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah urges the
65 Governor's Office of Economic Development to work in concert with the Utah League of
66 Cities and Towns and ~~to offer~~ private providers to offer support,
66a encouragement, and technical
67 expertise to Utah's cities and towns in promoting the goal of broadband connectivity to every
68 Utah home and business.

69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Governor's
70 Office of Economic Development and the Utah League of Cities and Towns for distribution to
71 its members.